A

COMPREHENSIVE VIEW

OF

SOME EXISTING CASES

OF

PROBABLE MISAPPLICATION,

IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF

CONTINGENT ALLOWANCES,

PARTICULARLY IN

The Militia of Great Britain;

Shewing the Wiſdom and Propriety of a more general CONSOLIDATION than has hitherto taken place:

AND CONTAINING

THREE different ESTIMATES of CLOTHING for a Militia Regiment, with occaſional Remarks upon the ruinous, unjuſt and unproductive Syſtem of nett Off-reckonings in the Army.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

CURSORY OBSERVATIONS on the MONOPOLY of REGIMENTAL APPOINTMENTS, the Abſurdity of granting additional Companies and ſecond Field Officers before the original Eſtabliſhment is completed, and the Neceſſity of diſtinguiſhing civil from military Duties, &c.—with a Glance at the late Increaſe of Pay, and the Remiſſion of Arrears to Subalterns *only*.

ADDRESSED

TO FRANCIS EARL OF MOIRA.

BY CHARLES JAMES,

Late Captain in the Weſtern Regiment of Middleſex Militia, and now Captain in the North York: Author of ſeveral political Tracts, &c.

Si quid noviſti rectius iſtis,
Candidus imperti; ſi non, his utere mecum.

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THE whole of the following letter bears viſible marks of having been written off-hand, and carries internal evidence of deſultory communication. It has inſenſibly grown to a much larger ſize, than I either expected or intended. From the conſtant habit in which I have been of committing my thoughts to paper, I have found it leſs difficult to illuſtrate my obſervations by facts, and conſequently to draw concluſions from them, than to preſerve that nicety of detail, which may perhaps be looked for in a work of this ſort.

If it ſhould ever chance to fall under the eyes of ſome particular perſons, they will not require

require to be told, that it has been written under circumſtances of peculiar hurry and avocation; nor will they queſtion the authenticity of the facts alluded to, ſhould they refer to their own experience for proofs of exiſtence.

I ſhall therefore entruſt the ſubject matter of theſe ſheets to the candour and impartiality of the very few who can make allowances for a want of literary arrangement, and will look at the many poſſible miſtakes of the writer through the good intentions of the man. I have not extenuated any thing, nor have I, as I hope to be judged myſelf, ſet down aught in malice with regard to others. Qui capit ille facit.

THE AUTHOR.

BRITISH MUSEUM

June 25th, 1797.

MY LORD,

IF I were not thoroughly acquainted with your Lordſhip's readineſs to receive any ſuggeſtions, which might tend hereafter to the good of an impoveriſhed country, I ſhould heſitate to add the preſent treſpaſs to the many, which I have already made upon your acknowledged affability. The ſeaſonable interference of government, with reſpect to a further conſolidation of the ſoldier's allowances, has produced the happieſt effect; and His Royal Highneſs the Duke of York deſerves the thanks of the army for having reſcued it from the baneful influence of partial jobs and contracts.

Something more, however, remains ſtill to be done, that it may be out of the power of ſubtle and deſigning miſchief to miſlead the

uneducated maſs of community. Opinion, my Lord, has already ſpread too wide, and a conſequent ſpirit of miſtruſt has faſtened too ſtrongly upon the common mind, not to render it ſound policy to obviate even plauſible grounds of diſſatisfaction and complaint.

In order to elucidate the full meaning of this obſervation, I will confine myſelf to three exiſting caſes in the militia, which will be readily allowed to be in point. I ſhall content myſelf with barely ſtating them to your Lordſhip, leaving the ſuggeſted removal of the abuſe, and the application of the remedy, to your ſuperior judgment and experience.

The firſt of theſe caſes (although it may ſeem trifling in its amount of general expenditure) is by no means inſignificant when conſidered as a poſſible cauſe of murmur and diſcontent, upon the ſcore of injuſtice to the ſoldier, or of injury to the public. In the conſolidation of the different allowances, which were formerly made to the non-commiſſioned officers and privates of regiments, under the denominations of *Queen Anne's bounty*, *poundage*, *tobacco money*, or *money* in aid of neceſſaries, it has been totally forgotten, even to give a ſpecific meaning to the

the following exiſting regulation. I underſtand by ſpecific meaning, ſuch a declaration of the intent of Government, that muſt prevent a diſcordance in opinion among the different regiments, eſpecially of militia and fencible infantry, with regard to the charge which may be made againſt the public for bruſhes, pickers, turnſcrews, worms, brick-duſt, emery and oil.

The following regulation, ſanctioned by the preſent ſecretary at war, and dated, War Office, October the 30th, 1794, remains uncancelled, although much miſtruſt might have been prevented by a conſolidation of it with other allowances.

"And for the other articles, namely bruſhes, &c. the *actual* expenditure, certified upon honour by the colonel or commanding officer, ſhall be allowed; provided the amount ſhall not, in any half-year, exceed the rate of 1s. 4½d. per man for each effective rank and file."

Your Lordſhip, I make no doubt, will readily agree with me in opinion, that the intent and meaning of government was, to place certain limits of expenditure, beyond which the officers commanding and having

the charge of companies, ſhould not go; with a preſumption, however, that, as the allowance was profuſely ample, no more would be certified for by the commanding officers of corps than what had been *bonâ fide* expended in providing thoſe articles.

I will now briefly ſtate my reaſons for ſuppoſing that the looſe and contradictory manner in which this regulation, ſimple as it unqueſtionably is, has been attended to, might afford to ſubtle and deſigning men, ſufficient ground to ſow the ſeeds of ſecret ſuſpicion. In the firſt place, there are not two regiments, at leaſt within my knowledge (and I have been in the habit of doing duty and of communicating with ſeveral during the preſent war) who have acted upon the ſame ſyſtem with regard to this regulation. In one corps it was ſo little attended to for upwards of two years, that neither the captains or officers having the charge of companies, nor the effective rank and file of thoſe companies, were directly, or indirectly, paid one ſhilling to anſwer the expence of emery, oil and brick-duſt. This error, ariſing from indolence or inattention, (for from the honour and integrity of the parties concerned

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in the management of the regiment, I cannot admit even the ſemblance of an improper motive) was not corrected until a circumſtance occurred which I myſelf had frequently foretold, and as frequently adviſed to obviate. A private, who had been choſen by lot, or in other words, was a principal ſerving for himſelf, and conſequently entitled to his diſcharge at the expiration of five years; on being accounted with, previouſly to his departure, refuſed to ſign the uſual acknowledgment of having received all dues and demands, &c. and gave for reaſon, *that he, as well as the reſt of his comrades, had bought their emery, oil, &c. during two years and upwards, out of their own pockets; that until the arrival of the new officer they had never been ſupplied with the articles, or been enabled to purchaſe them according to the regulation; that other regiments had got theirs free of expence, and that it was common juſtice to have the money returned which had been laid out.* Steps were immediately taken to prevent the circulation of this juſt cauſe of complaint. The diſburſement of each effective rank and file was averaged, and before a ſecond claim *could* be made, the ſeveral captains and officers having

the charge of companies, were directed to ſatisfy each ſoldier, according to the length of his ſervice, and the conſequent proportion of his demand. I can eaſily account for the ſurprize which will naturally be created in your Lordſhip's mind from this recital; which ſurpriſe will increaſe not a little, when you are further informed, that although other regiments either received their emery, oil, &c. in kind, or were partially paid in ſpecie for the purchaſing of the ſame, few or none have adhered to what I conceive is the ſpirit of the regulation. One regiment of militia, for inſtance, has been paid at the rate of one farthing per week for each effective rank and file, that is to ſay, ſixpence half-penny in every half-year, to find himſelf in emery, oil, crocus, and brick-duſt. The remaining eight-pence, on the ſuppoſition that every man was drawn for at the rate of 1s. 4½d. which I ſuſpect will be found to be the caſe by a reference to the Board of Ordnance, was conſequently veſted in the colonel or commanding officer, to find the ſeveral companies in pickers, worms and turnſcrews; and I believe it will not be difficult to prove, that thoſe articles, with the exception of a few partial deficiencies, have been

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only once, or twice at the utmoſt, ſupplied to the ſeveral regiments during the whole of the preſent war. So that the colonel, or commanding officer of the regiment alluded to, after the firſt year, muſt have had one ſhilling and eight pence, clear of the allowance made to the ſoldiers of one farthing per week, for the whole of the effective rank and file of his regiment.

Without entering into the impolicy of truſting any ſpecies of pecuniary allowance to private ſoldiers, eſpecially in the inſtance of a ſpecific regulation, with which they muſt be perfectly acquainted, I will barely aſk, whether any colonel or commanding officer can, with propriety, ſo far deviate from the preſcribed injunctions of the War Office, as to give *that* in ſpecie, which is expreſsly ordered to be given in *kind*, or to charge againſt the public the full extent of a diſcretionary diſburſment?

Although I am treſpaſſing largely upon your Lordſhip's patience, I will nevertheleſs take the liberty to ſuggeſt, what in my opinion would not only preclude every idea of miſapplication, and conſequently remove all ſort of miſtruſt from the ſoldier, but likewiſe ſim-

plify public accounts, by conſolidating the allowances made to captains. But to render this propoſition perfectly juſt and unexceptionable in the militia, a new organization of the different battalions ought to take place. It has already been enacted, that in the ſeveral counties, ridings, and places where the number of men is ſufficient, the militia ſhall be formed into regiments, conſiſting of not more than twelve, nor leſs than eight companies of eighty private men to a company at the moſt, and ſixty private men at the leaſt. I will not detain your Lordſhip from the main purport of this extract by repeating what I have often done myſelf the honour to ſuggeſt, on the propriety of incorporating the ſmall corps, particularly thoſe belonging to Wales, and of reducing the whole militia of Great Britain to a regular ſtandard. The manifold advantages which muſt accrue to the country at large, and the many inconveniencies, as well as abuſes, which would be removed from the ſervice, are too obvious to require a comment; and I ſhould pay your Lordſhip a bad compliment could I ſuppoſe, that an object of ſuch neceſſary reform has eſcaped your notice. I ſhall therefore only obſerve, that if the allowances

lowances which his Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to grant to captains of companies in proportion to their effective ſtrength, were to be increaſed by a conſolidation of the emery, oil, and brick-duſt money; every good purpoſe would be effected without the hazard of miſapplication or abuſe. At preſent the regulation, with reſpect to the charge of companies, ſtands at the following rates.

To every captain of a company, which ſhall conſiſt of ſeventy-ſix men or upwards, fifty-five pounds, ten ſhillings per annum.

To every captain of a company, which ſhall conſiſt of leſs than ſeventy-ſix, but more than fifty, forty-ſeven pounds, ſeven ſhillings and ſixpence per annum.

To every captain of a company, which ſhall conſiſt of fifty men only, or of any number leſs than fifty, thirty-eight pounds five ſhillings per annum. Suppoſing the reform not to take place, there cannot aſſuredly be any good reaſon aſſigned for the continuance of an allowance which appears to be ſo little underſtood, or if underſtood, ſo openly miſconſtrued and perverted in its preſent ſhape. The only pretext—for I will not give it the name of reaſon—that ever reached me, has been

been grounded upon the inconvenience which would ariſe from taking the ſaid allowance out of its uſual channel to add it to that for the charge of arms. As if any difficulty could be made by annihilating the one at the Board of Ordnance, and increaſing the iſſue of the other from the War Office. This increaſe, however, ſhould not be to the full amount of the allowed ſum, as I know from experience that it is not poſſible (ſetting the firſt ſupply of pickers, worms, bruſhes, and turnſcrews aſide) to ſpend above one ſhilling per year for every effective rank and file in emery, oil and brick-duſt, excepting under the peculiar circumſtances of immediate ſervice. Making the calculation therefore in proportion to the ſeveral ſums allowed to captains, according to the eſtabliſhment of their different regiments, a conſiderable ſaving muſt accrue to the public without one poſſible hardſhip to the ſoldier, or inconvenience to the officer. To every captain of a company, for inſtance, which ſhall conſiſt of ſeventy-ſix men or upwards, I would propoſe ſixty pounds, ten ſhillings, being four pounds annually, to provide (whenever there may be occaſion for them) pickers, worms, turnſcrews, and to ſupply the effective

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rank and file with ſufficient oil, emery, and brick-duſt to keep their arms in proper repair. This conſolidation would make a ſaving of nearly 1s. 4d. per man in every company ſo conſtituted, and the ſame ſaving muſt occur in proportion to the eſtabliſhment of others; which upon the groſs eſtimate of the army would be conſiderable. The amount of the ſaving might eaſily be aſcertained by adding the preſent half yearly allowance of 1s. 4½d. to every effective rank and file (which is always drawn for to its full extent) together, and afterwards deducting from the ſum total of that full allowance, the propoſed increaſe to the captain's contingent account for the charge of arms; the ſaving to the public would, upon an average, almoſt always be equal to that increaſe, and one eſtimate might anſwer for them both.

Various and manifold as the inſtances are which I could produce in confirmation of my own private opinion, with regard to the miſchief that might be done, by ſubtle inſinuations among the ſoldiery, independently of the manifeſt injury already ſuſtained by the public through the want of common attention to national œconomy; notwithſtanding the poſ-

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ſeſſion of theſe facts, my Lord, I ſhall only generally obſerve, that enabled as Mr. Windham has been to render the conſolidation of military allowances unequivocally productive, the general effect is ſtill notoriouſly abortive. In ſome corps the allowance in queſtion is drawn for by the ſeveral captains from the regimental pay-maſter with their half year's contingent money; in others, the whole of that allowance remains at the diſpoſal of the colonel, at whoſe expence the ſeveral companies are ſupplied with the ſtated articles through the medium of a quarter maſter, or quarter maſter ſerjeant, and ſometimes indeed by the adjutant. In others again, the *bonâ fide* expenditure of the ſeveral captains, or officers having the care of companies, is regularly delivered to the pay maſter, and no more is paid to the individuals, ſo entruſted, than what is actually vouched and ſigned for. The ſurplus (which collectively taken is far from being inconſiderable) has of courſe remained unaccounted for to the public.

Far, very far be it from me, my Lord, to inſinuate on this occaſion, that any thing, beſides a miſapprehenſion of the regulation or

or a want of attention to its ſpirit and import, could be the cauſe of ſo extraordinary a deviation from the ſpecific conditions under which the allowance in queſtion has been granted. This deviation however, is the more ſingular, conſidering the independent ſituation of thoſe perſons who ſhould be diſpoſed, rather to diminiſh than to increaſe the public expenditure, as there is not that general latitude for vague and looſe interpretation annexed to the allowance, which appears too frequently attached to other public acts of ſimilar tendency. I am therefore led to preſume, that more advantages would be derived to the country at large, fewer inconveniences would be entailed upon the different points of truſt, and leſs ground would be given for an invidious miſconſtruction of the application of national property, if there were no ſuch things as *returns upon honour*. On ſome occaſions, (but thoſe are rare indeed and the object perhaps of little or no importance in the ſcale of public expenditure) it will happen, that a contingent account may grow out of unforeſeen accidents, and a neceſſity conſequently be entailed upon the commanding officer to ſanction it with his ſignature.

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Theſe occaſions however occur ſo very ſeldom, and, as I have juſt obſerved, are in general of ſo partial and inſignificant a nature, that I ſhall not be ſuſpected of having looſely conſidered the ſubject if I leave the firſt caſe in its preſent ſhape, and proceed to the ſecond.

Here again, my Lord, the poſſibility of a miſchievous interpretation being engendered in the common mind to the material injury of the ſervice, will appear moſt manifeſt, eſpecially under circumſtances which are particularly favourable to the general frailty of human nature. You are too well acquainted with the character of a ſoldier, viewed in his aggregate capacity, not to agree with me, that there is a ſpecies of concomitant miſtruſt wherever there is an eſtabliſhed allowance given to purchaſe articles that may appear to be of a better quality in ſome regiments, than they are too frequently found in others. I am now directing your attention to a ſpecific half-yearly allowance of ſix-pence per man for the full eſtabliſhment of non-commiſſioned officers and private ſoldiers, which is made to the colonels of militia and fencible infantry regiments, to ſupply watch coats. This allowance is ſo variouſly ma-

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naged and ſo irregularly ſupplied, that I do not heſitate to claſs the improper mode of its inveſtment with the ſpecified inſtance of abuſe in the diſtribution of the emery, oil and brick-duſt money; and I feel equally diſpoſed to pronounce it a poſſible cauſe of murmurs among the ſoldiery, and of conſequent miſtruſt in the government of the country.

That I may place the ſubject under conſideration, in the cleareſt point of view, I will briefly ſtate the circumſtances which have occurred within my knowledge during the preſent war, and by ſo doing it will reſt with you, my Lord, and with every diſcerning man to decide, whether it be in the ſpirit of ſound policy to afford the latitude in queſtion? I humbly conceive that there will not be a doubt upon that head when I inform your Lordſhip, that I am in poſſeſſion of inſtances which might enable me to prove, that notwithſtanding the very ample and liberal manner in which colonels of militia regiments have uniformly been treated with regard to their off-reckonings, &c. no opportunity has been loſt to add to their emolument by a ſaving in the pitiful ſupply of watch coats. Waving therefore an invidious detail of theſe different in-

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ſtances, I will ſatisfy your Lordſhip with regard to the juſtneſs of the remark, by generally ſtating, that the allowance for watch coats, inſtead of being applied, to its full extent, for the benefit of the ſervice, as it ought to be, is not always expended upon thoſe articles, although it be regularly drawn for. I could exemplify my aſſertion by the moſt glaring contradictions that are exhibited by different regiments with regard to their application; but as that is not the immediate object of this letter, I will wave the unpleaſant taſk, and endeavour to eſtabliſh the groundwork of my reaſoning by contraſting three exiſting circumſtances which are perfectly relevant to the caſe.

In the preſent progreſs of opinion, it ought, my Lord, to be the buſineſs, and indeed the ſtudy of all good governments to prevent every ſort of impreſſion that might eventually undermine the confidence of the multitude. We all know, that the late melancholy troubles in the navy never could have acquired that gigantic ſtrength of general diſaffection, had not the fomenters of them been in poſſeſſion of ſome damning proofs of public injuſtice, which they artfully preſſed upon

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the individual conviction of every ſailor. Private accumulation at the expence of public contribution, was placed in oppoſition to general participation; and while the injuſtice of the former was manifeſted beyond contradiction, the adoption of the latter became an object of unqualified purſuit.

Inſtances of abuſe, embezzlement and miſapplication were ſufficiently familiar to the aggregate, to make them look with jealouſy and miſtruſt at their ſuperiors. The identification of one real injury neceſſarily produced a thouſand imaginary wrongs. Reaſonable remonſtrances ſoon grew into peremptory claims, and the very people who would have been ſatisfied with a public inveſtigation of grievances at one period, arbitrarily turned their faces againſt every ſpecies of enquiry at another. The right of a more equal diſtribution of prize money, added to the ſuſpicion of undue advantages exiſting in the interior management of the ſhip, afforded not only grounds of complaint, but created in the apprehenſion of the aggrieved, a ſort of juſtifiable reſiſtance. I take the liberty of making this digreſſion,—if indeed a digreſſion it can be called, ſince its baſis is general complaint

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founded upon partial miſtruſt; in order to direct the attention of every well-wiſher to this country, towards the prevention of ſimilar effects which might eventually grow out of ſimilar cauſes.

The army, my Lord, very much to their credit, have given the moſt unequivocal teſtimony of fidelity. It is not a matter of enquiry or diſcuſſion here, whether the ſame arts have been uſed for their ſeduction, as are ſuppoſed to have been practiſed upon the navy. The queſtion barely goes to eſtabliſh a poſſible influence of opinion, ſubverſive of good order and diſcipline, which had faſtened itſelf, and perhaps ſtill faſtens in part, upon the common mind of both. But to do this effectually, we muſt diſmiſs the bickerings and heart-burnings of party, we muſt rally round the ſtandard of acknowledged facts, ſteer from unqualified cenſure on one ſide, and be ſtudiouſly guarded againſt falſe confidence on the other. We muſt, in a word, ſee things as they are. A well conducted ſyſtem of interior œconomy under military regulations, is open and unconfined. There is neither management required to render occaſional miſapplications ſeemingly correct; nor are the

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channels of public diſtributions ſo intricate, as to carry with them any reaſonable excuſe for errors, and miſtakes. The only exception to this general remark that I know, is the garbled ſtate in which many of our acts of parliament for the better regulating of his Majeſty's forces too frequently appear. In nothing, however, does this exception preſent itſelf more manifeſtly defective, than by the frequency of thoſe acts, to which ſo many and indeed ſuch contradictory clauſes are attached in the ſhape of amendments. I ſhould greatly exceed the intended limits of this letter, were I to enter into any ſort of diſcuſſion upon this head. Enough has been ſaid to awaken the attention of the legiſlature; and I ſhould conceive that, notwithſtanding the wedded attachment of moſt militia colonels to a ſort of ſyſtem of their own, their general good ſenſe would readily point out the ſuperior claim which a whole country has, whenever private opinion or accommodation may be obſtacles to public utility.

When I conſider the extreme ſeverity with which a field officer of militia was lately treated, for an unintentional miſapplication of public ſtores, to the amount of a few ſhil-

lings only, I am at a loſs to account for the general contradiction of our ſervice; a contradiction, which muſt ſtrike the moſt common obſerver, and from the familiarity of which much diſtruſt might be created by the induſtry of explanation. It is to guard againſt the poſſibility of ſuch an explanation, that I do not ſcruple to recommend the abolition of returns upon honour, and of every ſort of *ex parte* allowance. The diſtribution of public property, whether in ſpecie or in kind, ſhould in every ſituation whatever, civil or military, be ſurrounded by neceſſary checks. It ſhould not be in the power of the many to convert, either from deſign or ignorance, the moſt diſintereſted views into mercenary motives; nor within the reach of the few to lower the reſpectability of their ſituations, by unwarrantable profits. In the caſe before us, (namely the allowance for watch coats at the rate of one ſhilling for every non-commiſſioned officer and private per annum) a more ſpecific rule than that which is uſually adopted or adhered to, appears indiſpenſably neceſſary. The neceſſity is the more urgent, becauſe the viſible difference between one regiment and another with

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reſpect to this allowance, is partial and contradictory. That I may not be miſunderſtood, even by thoſe who would wiſh to miſconſtrue and pervert every ſentence that borders on correction, I will briefly ſtate the three inſtances which I have already mentioned, as illuſtrative of the ſubject.

The firſt ſhews the application of this allowance, in a very favourable light, ſince it proves, that although the ſoldier is obliged to pay rather largely for the purchaſe of a great coat, he has nevertheleſs the full extent of what government affords to the regiment for that purpoſe, and he has the further ſatisfaction to know, that every thread belonging to it is his own.* I am aware of the objection which will be alledged againſt the aptitude of this inſtance, as it relates to the line, and muſt conſequently be irrelevant to what regards the militia. But at the ſame time I am equally prepared to eſtabliſh the propriety of the compariſon, by ſhewing the bad effects

* A regulation of this ſort muſt be peculiarly favourable to the militia-man, who, when diſbanded, might eaſily convert his military great coat into an excellent working jacket.

which might ariſe to the latter in particular ſituations. Let us ſuppoſe, my Lord, for a moment, that the enemy had landed, or were about to land, or that a more melancholy event had taken place amongſt ourſelves, with what conſiſtency could a detachment of militia (which had been in the habit of doing duty with a regiment ſo well equipped as the one deſcribed) be ordered upon the moſt harraſſing ſervice during perhaps the moſt inclement weather? To ſay that great coats might be eaſily provided on ſuch an occaſion, is neither an anſwer to a preſumed miſapplication of the allowance, ſmall as it is, at other periods, nor a mode of reaſoning which is calculated to prevent murmurs and diſcontents.

Diſmiſſing therefore all general obſervations, and the preſumptive evidence of poſſible events, I will confine myſelf to what has fallen under the teſtimony of my own eyes. I have ſeen, in confirmation of the firſt inſtance, and conſequently much in point to the ſecond caſe, a captain's guard mounted during the moſt rigorous ſeaſon of the year, with a great coat handſomely folded up and ſtrapped to the back of every non-commiſſioned

oned officer and private ſoldier belonging to it. It has fallen to my lot to relieve the ſame guard the day following by an equal number from the militia, not one man of which had even the ſemblance of a great coat about him.* I need ſcarcely inform your Lordſhip, by way of illuſtration, that the militia and fencible infantry are the only corps in the Britiſh ſervice, and, I believe, in any ſervice, which are not generally provided with this uſeful appendage to their clothing. The artillery men and the marines are, I ſuſpect, wider exceptions than the reſt, being furniſhed with that article at the expence of government. The line, from whom the exemplification of the firſt inſtance is drawn, is ſupplied by means of a regimental interior regulation, which operates in two ways; namely, either by a deduction from the bounty of the recruit, or by voluntary ſtoppages on the part of the drafted ſoldier. In the militia, and, I preſume, in the

* A few indifferent watch coats are diſtributed among the men of the main and rear guards, but not one is given, or indeed could be given to thoſe on picquet, were it even an out-lying one.

fencible infantry likewiſe, no proviſion of the kind is attended to. The full amount of the regulation allowing one ſhilling per annum for every non-commiſſioned officer and private ſoldier, conſtitutes an invariable part of the colonel's contingent bill, whilſt its application is as vague, as the colour and quality of the cloth are whimſical and uncertain.

This laſt remark opens upon the ſecond inſtance, and enables me to ſtate, from perſonal inveſtigation, that I have known the firſt ſupply of watch coats, not exceeding twenty-four, to have been in uſe during three years and upwards, whilſt the annual receipt from the public, for that purpoſe, muſt have been thirty pounds at leaſt. I ſhall not, perhaps, be very wide of the truth when I add, that in ſome militia regiments this allowance has been ſo ingeniouſly managed, that almoſt all the charge againſt the public has formed a private emolument. I am thus inſenſibly led to the third inſtance, and induced to mention a fact, which, although it may be explained away, to prevent the inference of private embezzlement, never can be juſtified upon the ground of public utility. I have been informed, from the beſt authority, that a regiment

ment, which in every other reſpect is a pattern to the militia, has actually been accommodated with watch coats by a neighbouring corps, for the common purpoſes of garriſon duty. What, my Lord, muſt the natural inference of the militia man be, in the manifeſtation of ſuch a deficiency, and how will he account for the viſible comfort of the Line, moſt eſpecially of the private ſoldier of the artillery that ſtands upon the ſame parade, when he compares a regulation, familiar to the loweſt drum boy of the eſtabliſhment, with theſe deviations and contradictions? I well know that a practice has obtained, among militia colonels, to gratify private opinion at the expence of public rules; I know, likewiſe, that the majority of them are, at all times, ready to parry off confeſſed abuſes, by adducing ſome inſtances of private expenditure which greatly exceed public contribution. Theſe, however, for the moſt part, relate only to the leaſt uſeful appointments of their ſeveral corps, and neither palliate nor excuſe the infraction of a public order.

In times, like the preſent, when a general diſpoſition to obtain information upon the moſt trivial objects, is apparent among the

loweſt

loweſt ranks in community, every aberration from preſcribed law is critical and dangerous. But in no ſituation, and under no circumſtances, are the dangers of miſconception more to be dreaded than in thoſe of a military nature. Brave, honeſt, and unreſerved himſelf, the Britiſh ſoldier looks for candour and openneſs of character in every man that governs and commands him. His confidence is unbounded, ſo long as he ſees no point upon which miſtruſt can faſten, and knows of no regulation to which perverſion can attach. He ſubmits, with cheerfulneſs, to every order for the better management of the interior œconomy, and does *that* from a conviction of its propriety, which no ſeverity could long exact. The diſcipline of the mind is thus accompliſhed, and a ready co-operation of hand and heart unequivocally produced.

It is not againſt the ephemeral ravings of ſpeculative reformiſts that the executive power of an enlightened country ought to direct its force; it is, my Lord, againſt the opinion of the multitude, grown reſtleſs under a conviction of abuſe and wrong, that the legiſlature ſhould be guarded. One real injury, however apparently ſmall, which is thoroughly

thoroughly ſettled upon the common mind, will eventually do more harm, than all the attempts of philoſophy put together. Leave the ſoldier nothing to expect or aſk for, that is acknowledged to be his right, and you will give the officer every thing he can want to maintain authority and command. Theſe are axioms founded in our natures, they are engendered at our births, they grow up with the child and become immutable in man; they are axioms which all ages have proved to be correct, and which even mortals, in a ſtate of barbarity, have more or leſs purſued; they are, in a word, the ſheet-anchors that keep ſubjection at its moorings, and enable every well regulated government to hold the helm in the midſt of tempeſts and convulſions. Obviate the poſſibility of a well grounded complaint, and there will be little occaſion for thoſe extraordinary teſtimonies of loyalty (from a body of men whoſe fidelity was never queſtioned) which have ſo lately appeared in every town and village in the empire. Exceſs in every thing begets its own evil.

> For virtue's ſelf may too much zeal be had;
> The worſt of madmen is a ſaint run mad.
>
> POPE.

Militia

Militia men may, with ſtrict propriety, be divided into three claſſes. Ballotted men or principals, who in general have ſome ſort of ſettlement; ſubſtitutes, ſerving for pariſhes, or for individuals, the majority of whom are very far from being paupers; and volunteers. In mentioning the laſt, though the number of them is comparatively ſmall, I cannot withhold, from your Lordſhip's notice, the ſingular overſight which has been committed to their diſparagement in a ſuppoſed proviſion for their families, to which there is neither power annexed to enforce the act of the legiſlature, nor, if enforced, a legal quarter of reimburſement for the overſeers to reſort to. I ſhall ſtand excuſed in the whole of this digreſſion from the immediate object of diſcuſſion, becauſe it muſt corroborate the general remark which I have offered on the vague and contradictory clauſes of ſome militia acts. But this cannot be done effectually, unleſs I previouſly direct your attention to two regulations which are materially in point. Theſe are---

1ſt. An act, as amended in the 33d of the king, to provide for the families of perſons choſen by lot to ſerve in the militia, and of

ſubſtitutes

ſubſtitutes ſerving therein. This act directs "That if any perſon who ſhall have been, or ſhall be choſen by lot to ſerve in the militia, or any corporal, drummer or fifer ſerving therein, ſhall, when embodied and called out into actual ſervice and ordered to march, leave a family unable to ſupport themſelves, the overſeer or overſeers of the poor of the pariſh, &c. &c. where the family of ſuch militia-man ſhall dwell, ſhall, by order of ſome one juſtice of the peace, out of the rates for the relief of the poor of ſuch pariſh, &c. &c. pay to ſuch family a weekly allowance, according to the uſual and ordinary price of labour in huſbandry within the ſaid county, &c. &c. where ſuch family ſhall dwell, by the following rule; that is to ſay, any ſum not exceeding the price of one day's ſuch labour, nor leſs than one ſhilling, for each and every child born in wedlock, and under the age of ten years; and for the wife of ſuch militia man, whether ſhe ſhall or ſhall not have any child or children, *provided ſhe does not follow the regiment*, any ſum not exceeding the price of one day's ſuch labour, nor leſs than one ſhilling.

2d.

2d. In the 34th of the king, 28th March 1794, an act paſſed for augmenting the militia, by which lord lieutenants might accept offers to raiſe volunteer companies, and alſo additional volunteers to regiments, &c.

Among the powers of the recited act which are to extend to this act, it is particularly ſpecified, that all and every the rules, regulations, penalties, forfeitures, clauſes, matters and things contained in the aforeſaid act of the twenty-ſixth year of his preſent Majeſty's reign, or in any other act that ſhall be paſſed in this ſeſſion of parliament, relative to the raiſing, training, paying, cloathing, embodying, and calling out the militia, ſhall be applied, practiſed, and put in execution with reſpect to the additional volunteer companies, or volunteers added as privates as aforeſaid, by this act directed to be raiſed, in as full and ample manner as if the ſaid ſeveral rules, regulations, penalties, forfeitures, clauſes, matters and things, were herein again at large repeated and re-enacted in the body of this preſent act, ſave and except ſo far as the ſame are altered by any proviſions contained in this act."

To give effect to every part of the firſt act,

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ſpecific regulations have been laid down; ſo much ſo, that not only particular points of reimburſement between different counties and pariſhes are made, but a power is further veſted in the magiſtrates to create freſh rates, ſhould the exiſting ones not prove adequate to the ſeveral weekly claims which may be made by the families of principals and ſubſtitutes.

The minuteneſs with which the ſecond, or augmentation act appears to be drawn up, muſt naturally lead you to conclude, that it is hardly poſſible, to diſcover a flaw of ſo fundamental a nature, that the very intent of the legiſlature, with reſpect to the families of volunteers is defeated, and the operation of the act entirely put aſide. Nevertheleſs, ſuch a flaw does exiſt, and not only the poſſibility, but the reality of much murmur and diſcontent prevails among the volunteers of almoſt every militia regiment in the kingdom. Nor does the evil reſt here. In very many inſtances during the preſent war, weekly allowances have been inadvertently paid to the wives and children of volunteers, and the overſeers themſelves, either already have, or will be loaded with the diſburſement, or the

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ſeveral regiments muſt refund the money. I ſhall endeavour to be as plain as poſſible in my explanation of this extraordinary overſight, in order to ſhew the neceſſity of an immediate amendment to that act, to rid it of ſo manifeſt a contradiction. Viewed, indeed, as an intended proviſion for the wives and families of volunteers, the whole ſpirit of the clauſe is loſt, becauſe there is no ſpecific ſubſtance upon which it can directly or indirectly operate. The other act, on the contrary, to which the one in queſtion is an inſeparable adjunct to the full extent and meaning of its principle, poſſeſſes every neceſſary channel from an original aſſeſſment of old rates to the creation of new ones, if wanted, and from the reimburſement entailed upon one county ſtock for diſburſements made in another. It attaches itſelf in all directions, is provided for in all quarters, and makes the militia man comfortable and eaſy (however diſtant from his home) becauſe he knows, that the infant family he has left behind him cannot ſtarve. How different is the lot of the volunteer! Engaged under the ſame ſpecific conditions, truſting to the ſame proviſions, and in the full aſſurance of a public act familiar to his mind, he cheerfully

fully joins his embodied comrades, and like them commits both wife and children to the pariſh. No ſooner, however, is the flaw diſcovered by the overſeers than every farthing of allowance is refuſed; applications to commanding officers naturally enſue from the diſappointed huſbands, who are harraſſed, in almoſt every poſt, by tales of wretchedneſs from their wives, and when final recourſe is had to government, the only anſwer to be obtained is an acknowledgement of the overſight without even a promiſed remedy to the grievance. It has been aſſerted, that the department of the War Office has no concern in framing or executing the interior and local regulations of the militia forces. But ſurely, my lord, the War Office ought to have ſome concern in recommending the ſpeedieſt meaſures to correct a palpable omiſſion, and to eſtabliſh ſome point upon which a public act of the legiſlature may operate. If the powers of the recited act, &c. &c. in favour of ballotted men and ſubſtitutes are in every ſhape and manner to extend to the augmentation act, let it not be ſaid by any one volunteer in the three kingdoms, that he has been inveigled into the ſervice by the ſpecious promiſe of an

indulgence to his family, which is bonâ ſide nugatory. A grievance of this kind is enough to create common cauſe in the breaſts of others, and to ſow the ſeeds of general miſtruſt.*

I ſhall now return to the ſecond caſe under conſideration, with a full impreſſion, that confidence is a better point d'appui---if I may uſe the favourite expreſſion of a modern tactician---than all the pivots of inventive theory. Give the ſoldier, my Lord, no reaſon to ſay that he is wronged, either in his poſitive or relative caſualties and advantages, and he will be led to do more from inclination, than the beſt drilled man could effect by rigour and exaction.

As the regulation for the ſupply of watch-coats ſtands at preſent, not one poſſible comfort can be expected by the ſoldier in caſe of hard ſervice, and all the bad effects which muſt reſult from a knowledge, or even from a ſuſpicion of its miſapplication, are to be appre-

* I ſhould humbly conceive, that this grievance might eaſily be remedied by making a rule, that the different treaſurers of county ſtocks ſhould anſwer the certified claims of the ſeveral overſeers.

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hended. How to accompliſh the firſt object, and to obviate the ſecond, are matters which require the moſt early conſideration. Two periods* have already elapſed, one general, and the other nearly ſo, which might have been rendered very ſeaſonably ſubſervient to both purpoſes, without treſpaſſing upon the public purſe or rendering a ſuggeſtion neceſſary to have recourſe to the emoluments of militia colonels.

In the overſight of theſe favourable epochs the only alternative left, is either to increaſe the allowance, or to include it in the very ample proviſion which is made to the colonels of militia corps for their clothing: a proviſion, which annually gives the lie to every profeſſion of diſintereſted ſervice; which ſtares every man of common penetration in the face, and makes him wonder at its continuance. Whilſt the attention of the War Office was fixed upon the moſt exiguous allowances, whilſt, in the accuracy of calculation, they were diſſected, like a ſun-beam by the priſm,

* The firſt aſſembling of the militia and the prolongation of ſervice.

in order to effect an unexceptionable conſolidation, is it not wonderful, my Lord, that not only the two regulations already mentioned, ſhould have paſſed unnoticed, but that an object of greater magnitude than either, was not even taken into conſideration. You will readily apprehend from this remark, that I am inviting your attention to the laſt, and in my private opinion, to the moſt important of the three caſes which conſtitute the ſubject matter of this letter; viz. The ſmall mounting. This conſiſts of one ſhirt, one pair of ſhoes, one pair of ſtockings, a ſtock, and roller, to be given annually by the colonels of infantry regiments, to every non-commiſſioned officer and rank and file man. Why ſuch indiſpenſable articles in the common raiment of man, as ſhirts, ſhoes, and ſtockings, ſhould not have their affixed quality and price, as they are included in the colonel's warrant and aſſignment, muſt ſtrike every perſon with ſurprize, and can only be accounted for by him who is not ignorant of the myſterious ways in which public money is rendered ſubſervient to private accumulation. In making this comment, it is very far from

from my intention to impreſs the country at large, and the army in particular, with an unqualified idea, that *every* gentleman of property, who has the honour to command a militia regiment, is capable of enriching himſelf at the expence of each individual ſoldier, to the material injury of the public ſervice, which muſt be affected by its miſapplication. The groſs abuſes that have been committed, during the preſent war, with regard to the delivery of theſe articles, their notorious defect in quality, in ſome inſtances, and the very partial mode* by which they have been given in others, juſtify the keeneſt cenſure upon the original iſſue. It has not been thought ſufficient to receive for the full eſtabliſhment, under a manifeſt deficiency of men, but in too many caſes, I fear, it might be proved, that conſiderable advantages have accrued to individuals, from the inferior quality of the articles. So unneceſſary, indeed, does the allowance itſelf appear to many colonels, in its

* I have known, during the preſent war, nearly two years to have elapſed, before a very indifferent ſet of ſmall mounting was delivered, that ought to have been iſſued the preceding twelvemonth.

preſent ſhape, that ſome have not ſcrupled to give their ſoldiers credit, upon each company's book, by a commutation of kind into ſpecie. I have been credibly informed (and I have no reaſon to queſtion my authority) that it is not uncommon, even among the guards, to adopt this method. The reaſons which are alledged for the propriety of this deviation from a preſcribed mode of application, prove, beyond contradiction, either the inadequacy of the rule to become effectual, or the abſurdity of its exiſtence.

The only good reaſon, among the many which have come to my knowledge, attaches itſelf ſo partially, and is indeed ſo differently adopted by different regiments, that I ſhall ſelect it as the beſt plea for not attending to the worſt regulation. In calling it the worſt regulation, I beg leave to be underſtood to mean, an allowance, which of all others is the leaſt adapted to its purpoſe, and moſt liable to miſapplication. The following extract, from Mr. Cuthbertſon's Interior Oeconomy, with whom I reluctantly differ, will not only explain the nature of this allowance, but likewiſe ſhew, what, in my humble opinion, is the only plauſible reaſon for giving the ſoldier

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a certain ſum in lieu of the ſmall mounting. His words are:

"The ſhirts annually given to the non-commiſſion officers and ſoldiers, as ſmall mounting, on the Britiſh eſtabliſhment, from the indifference of the work, can be of little uſe, unleſs taken to pieces and made up properly, with a ruffle at the boſom, which is an ornament that ſhould always be added to a ſoldier's ſhirt: the ſhoes too, delivered at the ſame time, ſeldom hold together a day's march in wet and dirty weather, if not entirely made up again; and though ſuch alterations are hard upon a ſoldier, he will yet find himſelf in ſome ſort repaid, by the ſervice he muſt receive from both, in compariſon to what would otherwiſe be the caſe.

"XXXIV. The yarn ſtockings uſually given to the private men, as part of their ſmall mounting, are generally ſo ill ſhaped and coarſe, as not to be even fit for wearing under gaiters, it muſt therefore be an advantage to get a better kind, charging the difference of the price (if neceſſary) to the ſoldiers. And indeed, was no part of the ſmall mounting to be iſſued, but in lieu of it ſeven ſhillings and ſix pence to each man (as is the

caſe on the Iriſh eſtabliſhment) it would anſwer infinitely better for the advantage of the ſoldiery."

If the above paſſage, particularly that part of it which relates to the quality of the ſmall or half mounting, had come from the pen of a perſon who was acquainted with the militia, I ſhould not heſitate, my Lord, in pronouncing it to be the ſevereſt cenſure, that could poſſibly be paſt upon thoſe gentlemen, who ought to be moſt intereſted in the well being of that eſtabliſhment; and I ſhould feel equally diſpoſed to arraign the wiſdom of that government which would ſo looſely expoſe public property to the poſſibility of private miſmanagement. But as I am ſtudious to avoid meddling with ſo general an object as the Line, (although I am conſcious at the ſame time that what may appear beneficial to one eſtabliſhment, can ſcarcely be thought injurious to the other,) I will purſue the ſame tract, with regard to this third caſe of poſſible miſapplication, that I have adopted in the firſt and ſecond; only reſerving to myſelf the latitude of alluſion to marching regiments, whenever the ſubject may appear to ſtand in need of that reference.

Without

Without therefore entering into a long detail of the different motives, good or bad, by which the commanding officers of regiments are influenced in their management of the ſmall mounting, without even queſtioning their right to appropriate this allowance according to their own judgment; I will confine myſelf to two or three inſtances which muſt undoubtedly be conſidered as dangerous deviations from the original intent of government. I term them dangerous, becauſe they are on ſome occaſions ſo directly oppoſite to common juſtice, and ſo contradictory to each other, that the moſt ignorant ſoldier muſt receive impreſſions of miſtruſt, from the mere want of judgment in their application. We have already learned from the author juſt quoted, that ſeven ſhillings and ſix-pence to every private ſoldier forms the commutation of theſe articles, upon the Iriſh eſtabliſhment; with a proportionable increaſe I preſume, to the non-commiſſioned officers; they being allowed a ſuperior ſort of ſmall mounting. As I do not conceive it to be at all neceſſary to the immediate object of this letter, to trace the regulation to its firſt enactment, I will ſatisfy myſelf with

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ſtating a few reaſons why I differ from the author in queſtion, relative to the propriety of taking one farthing from the ſoldier to make up deficiencies, which ought never to exiſt. I ground this aſſertion, (as far at leaſt as it relates to the militia) upon my own perſonal knowledge of the very judicious and honourable manner, in which theſe articles have been lately ſupplied to a regiment, from the North. The ſatisfaction I feel in being able to make this obſervation, affords the more pleaſure, becauſe I am convinced, notwithſtanding ſome miſtakes which have happened in other reſpects in the ſame corps, that no private pecuniary motive can attach to the general management of it. Inſtead of giving the non-commiſſioned officer and ſoldier a certain ſum, or applying any part of their pay or arrears of pay to the purchaſe of articles, which, if ſent in conformity to ſtated rules, ought to be *good*,* the full allowance has been expended upon them, and the moſt minute attention paid to the making up. This method points out the propriety of rendering the regulation ſo ſpecific, that no individual could

* See the original War Office directions on this head.

have

have it in his power to conſult his own private opinion, or, what is infinitely more detrimental, to conſider his own emolument at the expence of the public. As a certain ſum is regularly iſſued, which, I ſhould preſume, is fully adequate to the purpoſe, or nearly ſo, (for I do not pretend to have taken any preciſe information upon its amount, or to have apportioned it to the regulated price of thoſe articles, viewed in a regimental light) it muſt unqueſtionably appear ſound policy to make the application uniformly the ſame throughout the ſervice. By a regulation of this ſort, invidious compariſons would be avoided, ideas of miſtruſt be obviated, and the ſcandalous proofs of downright embezzlement, which have appeared during this melancholy war, be wholly prevented. I ſhould not have it in my power, my Lord, to apply to the conviction of many militia officers, to bear me through when I aſſert, that in more inſtances than one (even the one which has already been proved at the Horſe Guards, and which has ſo deſervedly ſtamped eternal infamy upon its author*) the poor ſoldier has received the

* Fenton Cawthorne.

whole

whole lot of ſmall mounting of ſo baſe a quality, that a fourth part of the allowance would have been more precious than its value. A pair of ſhoes of that deſcription has, within my own knowledge, been ſold for eighteen pence, and I verily believe that the conſideration was adequate to the article. Shirts and ſtockings have been diſpoſed of in the ſame diſgraceful manner. Indeed with ſuch a wanton ſpirit of embezzlement (for I cannot give it a milder term) has the ſmall mounting been furniſhed on more occaſions than one, that I believe it would not be difficult to adduce various facts in teſtimony of my aſſertion. As, however, it is not my intention to criminate individuals, but to correct general abuſes, I ſhall barely prove the inadequacy of the rule from the contradictory application of the allowance. I know, for inſtance, that in a new raiſed regiment ten-ſhillings have been allowed to every private ſoldier, in lieu of three of the ſpecified articles*, and that the ſame have been ſupplied by contract to another, ſo as to leave no inconſiderable balance in the colonel's favour. Sometimes it happens, that inferior

* Shirt, ſhoes, and ſtockings.

agents

agents are entruſted with this ſupply, who perhaps have fewer ſcruples than may reaſonably be expected to operate upon the feelings of more independent characters. Free from the unpleaſant check of affixed reſponſibility, and more habituated to notions of loſs and gain, they eaſily reconcile an overcharge to their employer in the raw materials with ſome trifling profit on the manufactured article. Underſtrappers muſt, however, be employed in matters of this ſort, and it almoſt invariably follows, that the very advantages which are ſuppoſed to be ſnug and ſecret, eſcape from their original depoſitory, and ſoon become objects of comment and animadverſion among the ſoldiery. Ill-placed humanity, ignorance of the fact, and not unfrequently an unqualified vanity to make every thing appear perfect in their own corps, added perhaps to another motive, which I may have occaſion to mention in my curſory remarks upon the monopoly of ſituations, all theſe, my Lord, together with no ſmall portion of inattention to interior œconomy, render the heads of militia regiments leſs rigid, than juſtice to the ſoldier and policy to the ſtate demand.

Having ſpecified the abuſe, it will naturally be

be expected that I ſhould ſuggeſt the remedy. Preſumptuous as the latter taſk may appear in the eyes of ſome people, I ſhall not heſitate to ſay, that by a total abolition of the ſmall mounting as it is now iſſued, not only a conſiderable ſaving would accrue to the public, but every impreſſion of injuſtice muſt be removed from the ſoldier. The mode which I would recommend to be adopted in lieu of the allowance in its preſent ſhape, is ſo materially different from the one quoted by Mr. Cuthbertſon, and indeed from any that has ever reached me through the communications of others, that I muſt beg your Lordſhip's indulgence for introducing it by ſome introductory remarks on the aſſumed right, which many colonels and commanding officers of regiments ſeem to poſſeſs, relative to their clothing in general. The alteration which has recently taken place will indeed remove many abſurdities, and render the appearance of the Britiſh army uniform and conſiſtent; but I am apprehenſive, my Lord, that there has been one important point left undecided, which, for the ſake of the ſoldier, ought to have been moſt ſtudiouſly attended to. I mean the appropriation of the old clothing.

Steer-

Steering clear, as much as the nature of the ſubject will allow me, from the interior management of the Line, I ſhall briefly ſubmit the obſervation of an old officer * on what he conceives might be accompliſhed in marching regiments, and afterwards couple the ſame with a ſpecific regulation in the militia. His words are; "When a regiment is in a ſettled way, in time of peace, there can ſcarcely be an excuſe for not having the dreſs of the ſoldiers, at all times, perfectly neat; but when for duty, or otherwiſe to appear upon a parade, it ſhould be unexceptionable in every point; it muſt therefore be conſidered, that a ſoldier's conſtantly wearing the ſame coat, on all occaſions, for an entire year, without the aid of ſomewhat elſe to ſave it, in a great meaſure deprives him of the ability to act agreeable to the wiſhes of his officers † in that reſpect; for which reaſon, as the ſoldiers are not now obliged to turn their old coats into waiſtcoats, as was formerly the caſe, nothing

* Mr. Cuthbertſon.

† It would be better for the ſervice, if daily experience did not afford ample ground to add *whim and caprice.*

can

can be more eaſily accompliſhed, than their always being in poſſeſſion of an indifferent coat, to wear in common dreſs, by which the beſt one need never be uſed but on Sundays, guards, and other particular occaſions.

" XXI. If the old coats to be worn in common dreſs, ſhould at any time be thought too ſhabby, a very trifling expence may turn them into jackets, in which the men will look extremely tight and ſmart."

In another place (XXXI.) the ſame author remarks: " When it is in the power of a regiment to keep a ſecond coat for the men to dreſs in, the ſame œconomy ſhould be uſed to preſerve a ſecond hat, by which the whole of their appointments (except, I preſume, the waiſtcoat and breeches) will be equally good."

You have here, my Lord, the theory of an individual, which I know has been and ſtill is adopted in many corps, as well regular as militia, without the authority of one public regulation to ſanction its practice. That the want of ſuch a regulation with an apportioned indemnification to the ſoldier for what he conceives to be his own private property, after one year's wear, is the ſource of much

murmur

murmur and diſtruſt, will be readily allowed by almoſt every officer in the ſervice. Beſides which, there is a latitude given to individuals, (whoſe notions, and perhaps caprices, may not wholly agree with the dictates of ſound judgment and propriety) that ought never to exiſt within the limits of public ordinations. This, I believe, my Lord, is the doctrine of common ſenſe; and as ſuch, muſt be within the reach of the moſt common underſtanding. Soldiers will conſequently draw compariſons; and as human nature is ſo conſtructed, that few or none will draw favourable ones, the neceſſary inference is, that they will either think themſelves wronged by the man of ability, or turned into ridicule by the fool. As the firſt is moſt likely to be the caſe, from the well-known diſpoſitions of ſoldiers in general, *who always ſuſpect when they do not clearly apprehend*, it is highly important to the ſervice that ſome ſpecific rule ſhould be made to operate on all alike. In the militia it is indiſpenſably neceſſary; for there is a public act in their favour which pointedly defines the limits between what is worn as public property by the ſoldier, and what eventually becomes his own.

I ſhall ſubmit the clauſe in the words of Juſtice Burn, who may poſſibly have had more occaſions than one to explain it, in his capacity of magiſtrate.

" No private militia man ſhall be entitled to his cloaths, to his own uſe till he hath ſerved *three years*, if unembodied: if embodied, to be applied, at the end of one year, as the commanding officer ſhall judge beſt for the uſe of ſuch militia man. 2. G. III. C. 20. S. 80."

The only queſtion that can poſſibly ariſe, on this head, muſt relate to the diſcretionary power which ſeems to be veſted in the commanding officer, with regard to the application of the militia man's clothes, eſpecially when embodied. But there cannot be any on the ſcore of property. Another point, in my opinion, appears undetermined and indeed attended with ſome difficulty as to appropriation: This is the mode which ſhould be adopted in the diſpoſal of the caſt ſuits. It is incontrovertibly evident, that they muſt be applied as the commanding officer ſhall judge beſt for the uſe of the ſoldier. How, therefore, can any internal regulation of a corps, or particular whim of a colonel, oblige a man

to

to wear thoſe articles in the ſervice of the public which have already ceaſed to be its property? I will not illuſtrate this queſtion by ſome glaring inſtances of injuſtice that have occurred in the courſe of the preſent war. I have already travelled too far from the original purport of this letter, to fix your immediate attention upon a ſubject (viz. the clothing) which ſtands more in need of enquiry and of conſequent correction, than the whole remaining ſyſtem of interior management. It is ſufficient for me to have pointed out ſome vague conceptions on that head, and the manifeſt contradiction which ſeems to exiſt, even in times of ſervice, between the practice of the line, and indeed of ſome militia regiments, to the ſpecified regulation in favour of the latter.*

I ſhall therefore return to the third caſe of poſſible miſapplication, (namely the ſmall mounting) and propoſe a ſubtraction of the value of thoſe articles from the very ample allowance which is made for the annual clothing of the militia regiments. It will reſt with the commander in chief (who, to do him juſtice, is

* An allowance.

indefatigable in his attention to the ſervice) to determine how far it may be expedient to ſuggeſt an increaſe to the pay of proprietary colonels in the Line,* and to do away the ſyſtem of off-reckonings in every military eſtabliſhment. If the abolition of ſmaller allowances has been judged ſo neceſſary, and, with one or two exceptions, only, has been attended by ſo much good, how beneficial to the public, (that could only have the clothing of a bonâ fide exiſting ſoldier charged againſt it) muſt the annihilation of a ſyſtem prove, which is merely calculated to enrich one man, and to multiply public eſtimates and accounts, without being the means of giving conſequence to the ſervice in general? With reſpect to the militia, there cannot aſſuredly exiſt a doubt on the juſtice and propriety of reſcuing the long liſt of wealthy and independent noblemen, &c. who are at the head of that eſtabliſhment, from the poſſible imputation of their being bribed into temporary ſervice by the *privileges*, *profits*, and *emoluments*, which

* I mean by proprietary colonels, generals, lieutenant-generals and major generals who poſſeſs the off-reckonings of a regiment.

they

they enjoy and receive from the nett off reckonings, &c. &c. of their reſpective regiments and corps. I make uſe of the term *poſſible imputation*, becauſe I am thoroughly perſuaded my Lord, that although there may be occaſional deviations from what is ſtrictly pointed out for the good of the ſervice, particularly in the ornamental parts of it, thoſe deviations do not generally proceed from pecuniary motives. To ſay, that there are not exceptions to this exculpation of ſo dignified and reſpectable a body, would be contradicting the evidence of facts. I can myſelf bear teſtimony to ſuch a declared anticipation of profits and emoluments, even before the preſent war, that would make every independent man redden at its effrontery. That it is poſſible for ſuch principles to exiſt has already been made familiar to every ſoldier in Great Britain. He need not be told, that there may be found men who, notwithſtanding their honourable ſituation, their high affinity, and their poſſeſſion of private property, will lend an ear to the ſecret whiſpers of corruption, grow rich upon the public ſpoil, and make uſe of all the ſubtlety of influence, to rob their countrymen and country. A poſſibility of this lamentable

texture has been already woven together by ſubſtantial facts, and is as manifeſt to the moſt illiterate private in the ranks, as the colours are by which he dreſſes. In order to obviate this poſſibility, and to prevent the inſinuations of induſtrious miſchief (which would gladly attach an indiſcriminate ſpirit of embezzlement to the actions of every militia colonel in the empire) I do not heſitate to ſay, that it is for the benefit of all parties (private character and public œconomy conſidered) that no ſpecies of emolument ſhould exiſt in the appropriation of national allowances. In making this declaration I am confident, that you, my Lord, will heartily agree in the ſentiment it conveys, as you have the acknowledged teſtimony of all who know---and knowing muſt revere your principles---to the many perſonal ſacrifices which it has coſt yourſelf.

It was my intention to have here taken leave of the leading matter of this letter, and to have proceeded to a ſhort and curſory view of the injuſtices and inconveniencies which attend the monopoly of ſituations. I am, however inſenſibly led to detain your Lordſhip a little longer, that I may bring into a narrow and perſpicuous view the three principal

cipal points, together with the auxiliary inſtance reſpecting the families of volunteers, which conſtitute the ſubſtance of it. I ſhall briefly re-capitulate the four caſes, and ſubmit them to your conſideration, with the remedies which occurred when I firſt committed them to paper for the ſole purpoſe of private communication.

The firſt is the half-yearly allowance, not to exceed 1s. 4½d. for each effective rank and file, which is iſſued from the Ordnance, on a voucher ſigned by the commanding officers of corps, and ſtating, upon honour, the bonâ fide expenditure of the ſeveral companies, for bruſhes, pickers, worms, turnſcrews, emery, oil, and brick duſt.

I ſhould propoſe a conſolidation of this allowance with the contingent money, which is, or *ought to be* iſſued every half-year from the War Office, to the commanding officers of companies in proportion to their ſtrength.

In offering this propoſition I cannot forbear to preſs upon the attention of the legiſlature, and to recommend to the well known zeal of his Royal Highneſs Field Marſhal the Duke of York, not only a further incorporation of ſmall corps, particularly of the Welch, but moſt

eſpecially a general equalization of the ſeveral companies. By a plan of this ſort, the militia, if I may be allowed the term, would be *fixed*, and every part of its eſtabliſhment be calculated to act together. I purpoſely omit entering into any detail of the immenſe ſaving which muſt likewiſe accrue to the public by the conſequent reduction of ſtaff and warrant commiſſions. This advantage muſt be obvious to every perſon who is in the leaſt acquainted with military œconomy.

I ſhould conceive that this incorporation might be effected, without much inconvenience, by dividing the whole force into two parts, North and South, and by ſub-dividing it again into four battalions; viz. 1ſt and 2d North Wales; ditto 1ſt and 2d South Wales regiment or battalion. This ſuggeſtion may poſſibly be thought not entirely ſuperfluous with regard to a more equal diſtribution of other militia corps. It cannot at all events be injurious, eſpecially to the long propoſed and now adopted formation of the Scotch militia.

The ſecond caſe relates to watch coats, for which there is likewiſe a half yearly allowance made to the colonels or commanding officers

ficers of regiments at the rate of 6d. per man, for the full eſtabliſhment of non-commiſſioned officers and private men.

I ſhould propoſe a conſolidation of this allowance with the general clothing of each regiment, ſubject nevertheleſs to certain proviſions, in order to prevent unneceſſary wear and tear while the troops are not in immediate ſervice, or liable to be injured by the inclemencies of the ſeaſon. Every captain being furniſhed with a clothes cheſt, might be rendered reſponſible to the colonel or commanding officer on this head; ſo that with proper care the ſupply of the firſt year would eaſily ſerve during the whole of the ſecond; making one great coat anſwer for two ſuits. Their make and colour ſhould likewiſe correſpond with ſome general preſcribed pattern, to prevent the whimſicality of individual taſte. They ought, for inſtance, to be very full in the body, ſufficiently long to reach much beyond the knee of the ſoldier, with a ſort of horſeman's hanging fold, leaving the arms entirely diſengaged, yet capable of covering them when the centries, &c. are not in the immediate act of challenging. To this fold or cover for the cheſt and arms I would add a hood

or capuchin, ſimilar to what has been very properly adopted in one or two marching regiments, the whole expence of which would not amount to 20 ſhillings.

The third, and in my opinion, the moſt important caſe, is the ſmall mounting or annual iſſue of one *good* ſhirt, one *good* pair of ſhoes, one *good* pair of ſtockings, ſtock and roller, to all the non-commiſſioned officers and rank and file, according to the full eſtabliſhment of the different regiments. Theſe articles are entirely at the diſcretion of commanding officers, a moſt ample proviſion for which is included in their allowance for clothing, which is never operated upon, in one half-penny, by the caſualties or non-effective ſtate of their battalions.

I have affixed the epithet *good** to three ſpecific articles, in order to convey the original intent of Government with regard to the price and quality of the things in queſtion, and to place it in contraſt to the *bad* and wretched ſlops, for they deſerve no better name, which

* If my memory does not miſlead me, there is ſtill extant a printed Regulation, ſigned by Sir George Yonge or Lord Barrington, in which theſe articles are diſtinguiſhed by the above epithet in *Italics*.

have

have been forced upon the ſoldier during the preſent war. It would take me much beyond the limits of this recapitulation, were I to adduce, in proof of a former remark and to confirm the preſent, the ſeveral inſtances, which are known, of palpable abuſe. I believe it might be proved, that in the article of ſhoes only, the moſt refined raſcality has prevailed. An anecdote in point is too current among the military to be left unnoticed here. The men being furniſhed with theſe articles at a very inclement ſeaſon of the year, it was natural for them to endeavour to ſave their own ſhoes by wearing the contract or ammunition ones. Theſe were manufactured in ſo ingenious a manner, as to appear, at firſt ſight, perfectly compact and ſolid. The main parts ſeemed particularly ſtrong. No ſooner, however, did the poor unfortunate ſoldier truſt himſelf in them during the rainy ſeaſon, than the threads belonging to the welting ſuddenly rotted, the ſoles gave way, and their boaſted ſubſtance proved to be little more than clay and other plaſtic matter. Although I do not pledge myſelf to the authenticity of this fact, I will nevertheleſs ſo far add to its poſſible exiſtence, as to ſay, that

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the preſumptive evidence of other circumſtances goes a great way towards its confirmation.

I ſhould therefore propoſe—as a certain remedy to theſe abuſes, and to put it beyond the reach of deſigning miſchief to confound the intention of Government and the wiſhes of honourable men with the mal-practices of corruption and ſelf-intereſt,—to entruſt the managemeut of the ſmall mounting to the captains or officers having the charge of companies; the ſupply and regular ſupport of neceſſaries being peculiarly within their province. In order to elucidate this propoſition, I will take the liberty of quoting a paſſage out of a collection of different ſuggeſtions, which were haſtily thrown together and printed in April, 1794,* not as matter of accurate

* It muſt be ſome ſatisfaction to the author of this collection to find, notwithſtanding the very *liberal* compliment which was paid to his political principles in a certain Review on the deſultory ſketch of abuſes, that all thoſe abuſes have not only been proved at the Horſe Guards, but that the following amendments propoſed in 1794, have been adopted partially or wholly in 1797, viz. The incorporation of one or two Welch corps, the conſolidation of the ſoldier's allowances, the abolition of the ſubaltern's arrears

curate calculation and of conſequent immediate adoption, but as hints which occaſionally grew out of manifeſt abuſes.

" 5. That a ſpecific ſum be iſſued to the captains of companies, in lieu of what is generally called the King's *ſmall mounting*, *&c.* which conſiſt of one ſhirt, one pair of ſhoes, one pair of ſtockings and one ſtock and roller annually; for the continual ſupport of which and other neceſſaries an allowance is made amounting in the total to 11. 5s. 4½d. per annum. A conſolidation of the whole is propoſed to obviate a multiplicity of miſtakes and miſconſtructions which occur perpetually in the diſtribution of both allowances. The *half* or *ſmall mountings* that are delivered being frequently of very inferior quality, murmurs and diſcontents ariſe, which cannot be prevented, be-

arrears and an increaſe to his ſubſiſtence, the reduction of regimental chaplains, eſpecially in militia corps, the appointment of Lord Lieutenants in Scotland and conſequently of a militia; an augmentation of the artillery, particularly of the light or mounted corps, to be conſtantly attached to large bodies of militia, &c.

See propoſed Plan by C. James---Pages 1, 4, 43, 60, 14, 57---In Hints to Lord Rawdon, which were publiſhed before the French Revolution, the neceſſity for a militia in Ireland was likewiſe ſuggeſted by the ſame author.

cauſe

cauſe there is not an immediate controuling power to correct the abuſe. As the captains and officers commanding companies are ſubject to the moſt minute enquiry from the colonel or commanding officer in every thing which appertains to the appearance of the ſoldier, it will become an object of eſpecial care amongſt them to provide their men with good and laſting neceſſaries; and as the ſoldier will have to look up to his captain at the expiration of the year for whatever ſurplus may remain, a ſpirit of emulation, as well as a dictate of intereſt will induce him to preſerve the neceſſary ſtock." The ſame author adds: "That the commanding officer be accountable to the reviewing general for whatever abuſe may be committed either in the diſtribution of neceſſaries, or in the regular payment of what may be due to the man on the 24th of December in every year."

The only difference between the conſolidation which has taken place by authority and the one propoſed, is in the extent and mode of diſtribution—In lieu of ſettling with the ſoldier every year, captains of companies are now directed to account with him upon the 25th of every month, and to pay over whatever

ever ſurplus may remain out of a ſtated ſupply of neceſſaries. It conſequently follows, that at one period the ſmall mounting muſt neceſſarily come under the officer's inſpection, and ought therefore to be ſupplied in ſuch a manner, as to preclude the diſgraceful compariſon which too frequently is made between company and regimental articles. The ſoldier, my Lord, is not ignorant of the prices that are allowed, nor blind, of courſe, to the quality which he has a right to expect. Some people, I know, are ſo wedded to old regulations, that it is ſufficient for them to oppoſe the beſt ſuggeſtions, if they have the marks of novelty about them. New lights are to ſuch minds a ſort of darkneſs viſible, which frightens the weak, and always muſt diſturb the mercenary man; but when a new light, to make uſe of Mr. Windham's * phraſe, has experience for its baſis, every good government ought to be guided by it. The alteration which has lately taken place for the relief of a moſt deſerving part of the army, and which, I make no doubt, will with the ſame degree of conſideration be extended to every

* See the Parliamentary Debate of the 30th inſtant.

officer

officer in the ſervice, affords the cleareſt opening for ſome immediate change in the mode and manner of diſtributing the ſmall mounting. I have already pointed out one channel, through which theſe articles might paſs without the poſſibility of abuſe---Every captain would be a check upon the other, in comparative emulation, and the colonel or commanding officer would have little to fear from the moſt rigid inveſtigation of a reviewing general, provided the interior œconomy of his regiment was attended to with common regularity. The only difficulty (for I am not ſo ignorant of official buſineſs as to be unaware of the objection) might appear in the neceſſary ſubtraction from the clothing warrant, in which the money to be appropriated to the purchaſe of theſe articles is included. This difficulty might, however, be eaſily removed or obviated by a given regulation, which ſhould entitle the captains and officers commanding companies to draw upon the regimental paymaſter on the 24th day of April * in every year, while embodied, at the rate

* I have particulariſed this month, becauſe there will be ſufficient time between that date and the enſuing Birth-day

rate of 6s. for a ſhirt, 6s. for a pair of ſhoes, and 1s. 8d. for a pair of ſtockings, for every effective non-commiſſioned officer and private. No inconvenience could poſſibly ariſe to the public, ſince the account muſt remain nearly the ſame as before, and no embarraſſment could fall upon the colonel, as he muſt always have the means, in his aſſignment, to lodge the neceſſary ſum.

In offering this remedy for the removal of an acknowledged abuſe, I hope I ſhall be underſtood to do it under a ſuppoſition, that the preſent exiſting regulations for the cloathing of the army will continue; but I truſt at the ſame time, that inſignificant as my opinion may be upon any ſubject of the kind, my judgment will not be paid ſo bad a compliment, as to ſuſpect me capable of wiſhing for that continuance. On the contrary, whenever I reflect, my Lord, upon the ſordid com-

day to get the neceſſary articles made up; and I am clearly of opinion, that the whole army ought, as far as circumſtances will admit, to be invariably clothed at the ſame period; I mean that every ſoldier in Great Britain ſhould appear on the 4th day of June, in every year, with a bonâ fide new coat, new waiſtcoat, new pair of breeches, &c. &c.

plexion which the very name of a nett off-reckoning carries along with it, I feel an involuntary impulſe to cenſure and condemn. The ſyſtem, in all its ſtages, bears ſo many marks of mercantile refinement and ingenuity, has ſo many deviations from the broad principles of military uſage in general, and is ſo glaringly oppoſite to the preſumed independence of the militia in particular, that I do not ſcruple to wiſh for its utter annihilation. I would not leave it in the power of a ſoldier to ſuſpect, that under the appearance of patriotic zeal, any one man of property and conſideration could be enticed from a comfortable home by *intereſted* views. Nor would I, on the other hand, afford any one militia colonel the means of allowing *that* from generoſity*, which another might think himſelf (as he unqueſtionably is) entitled to with-

* I have heard---and if I may be allowed to judge from character, I ſincerely believe the fact---that when the colonel of a moſt excellent militia corps was aſked, whether his regiment coſt him ſeven hundred pounds per annum more than the allowance or off-reckonings? he replied: *I do not ſpend one farthing of private property, but I certainly devote the whole of my aſſignment to the battalion I command, and I find it more than ſufficient.*

hold

hold from eſtabliſhed right, and *poſſibly* from convenience.

Having ventured my opinion upon a ſubject which is of no ſmall conſequence to the country, it will naturally be expected, that I ſhould offer ſome remarks relevant to the point in queſtion. I ſhall offer theſe remarks the more willingly, becauſe I am convinced, that an adequate compenſation to the ſoldier in lieu of the ſmall or half mounting, would be of infinite benefit to the ſervice, ſince it would deſtroy an infinite latitude of ſuſpicion.

During the debate on the 29th inſtant, the ſecretary at war has emphatically remarked, that in order to prove the abuſe or inefficacy of an old regulation, and to enforce a new one, *ſomething more was neceſſary than a number of facts; it was neceſſary to prove, that the facts warranted the concluſion.*

Without entering into any particular argument either for or againſt this general opinion, or attempting to analyſe its metaphyſical qualities, I will remain ſatisfied with the production of the three exiſting facts, and leave you, my Lord, to determine, whether they warrant the concluſion I have drawn.

All of them in their preſent ſhape are not only ſuſceptible of abuſe, but can be proved to have been more or leſs perverted and miſmanaged. The remedy which has been propoſed goes to obviate even the poſſibility of abuſe, by altering the channels of diſtribution, and by throwing a variety of checks round the application of each allowance.

In treating of the ſmall or half mounting, I have neceſſarily been led to reflect upon an object of much greater importance to the public, and when conſidered as affecting the militia, of the utmoſt conſequence to the ſuppoſed independence of that eſtabliſhment. I mean the clothing. It is here, my Lord, that a direct contradiction is given, at all points, to the diſintereſted ſpirit of men of the largeſt fortunes and in the moſt diſtinguiſhed ſtations of the empire; it is here, that an ingenious traffic is to be diſcovered between the officer and the tradeſman, each ſtriving to out-do the other in making the moſt of national property; it is here, that the *non-effective ſtate* of a militia regiment is artfully managed, and that diſcharges and deſertions are converted into inſtruments of profit; it is here, that a ſort of annual harveſt is prepared

pared for the colonel, by the receipt of nett off-reckonings for a full eſtabliſhment under a glaring deficiency of men; and that the very property of the ſoldier—which at the expiration of twelve months ought invariably to be diſpoſed of to the beſt advantage for himſelf—is artfully cut away, to anſwer every purpoſe, except the one preſcribed by a direct and general regulation.*

The unaccountable profuſion of public money, has been made familiar to the moſt common obſerver, by the eſtimates which every man is at liberty to make, not only for the full eſtabliſhments of marching regiments, which have been rendered ſkeletons during the courſe of the preſent war, but likewiſe by thoſe which are equally calculable, and ad-

* See 2 G. III. C. 20. S. 80. as quoted in a preceding paſſage of this letter. I have reaſon to ſuppoſe that the validity of this clauſe will be diſputed, on account of a late regulation, whereby ſome colonels of militia corps conceive themſelves authoriſed to ſtop 2s. 6d. per man, not *for altering clothing to fit*, as therein expreſſed, but for turning the old coats and converting them into jackets, which (if allowed) ought to be done for 1s. per man by the regimental taylors. The injuſtice of the thing itſelf will appear in a ſubſequent page.

vantageous in the manifeſt deficiency of militia corps. It is upon this ground, my Lord, that I ſhould wiſh to ſee the line of demarcation drawn between *actual* expenditure and *extravagant* allowances, between the partial caſualty of loſs, and the univerſal certainty of gain; it is here, in a word, that I would deſtroy courteſy or cuſtom, and give a fixed ſtandard to pure military right. I would put it out of the power of any man to call for papers in the Commons, which might prove the receipt of a full aſſignment of off-reckonings, without the exiſtence of a ſingle rank and file to authorize the charge.* My only ſurprize is, that an object of ſo much weight in the ſcale of national expenditure as the common eſtimates of the army prove, independent of the extraordinaries, ſhould have gone through the different ſeſſions of parliament, without even one comparative glance

* I ſhall not I truſt be found incorrect, when I ſtate, that the late reduction of the line from one hundred to ſixty per company, was chiefly owing to a glaring inſtance of this ſort. Unfortunately for the country at large, the fact wa carried no farther than the war-department, and has conſequently been left with a ſuperficial correction of the evil whilſt its root remains untouched.

at

at the non-effective ſtate of almoſt every regiment in the ſervice. I believe it would not be difficult, even now, for a member of either Houſe to prove, by documents from the adjutant general's office, that the quantity of clothing, &c. which is annually paid for by the public, is almoſt two thirds more than the number of effective men. It is allowed on all ſides, that the poſſeſſion of a regiment is like the poſſeſſion of a life eſtate, and in a converſe ſenſe of the compariſon, equally improveable according to the ſkill or good fortune of the holder; with this difference in favour of the military tenant, that, let what will happen, it is impoſſible for *him* to be a loſer. Diſeaſe and war have no hold upon the privileges, profits, and emoluments, which every colonel or officer commandant is entitled to enjoy; they afford, on the contrary, as many ſources of advantage to the individual as they are melancholy cauſes of loſs and ſorrow to the public. The mortality in the Weſt or Eaſt Indies can neither deſtroy nor leſſen his demand in Europe. Theſe are facts, my Lord, that warrant ſome concluſion, and theſe are lights, call them new or old, that have a lamentable experience for their baſis; they *are*

*not falſe and fallacious in any ſenſe, nor are they applicable to general theories alone.** They carry conviction with them in every proſpect of the mind; they ſhew a viſible waſte of public property, and a manifeſt ground of private grievance from inequality of profits. Viewing the object, as we unqueſtionably may, in a light of lucrative complexion only, the difference in off-reckonings is ſtrikingly conſpicuous between the proprietary colonel of a regiment which is ſent abroad and is conſequently liable to the endemial ravages of climate, and of one which is kept complete at home. I make this diſtinction, becauſe the caſe is very poſſible, and the inference of courſe correct. I will for inſtance ſuppoſe, that at the beginning of the preſent war there were two regiments, cavalry or foot, effective to a man and fit for foreign ſervice; that both were raiſed by gentlemen whoſe rank or ſituation in the country precluded them from perſonal duty, and that only one of the regiments was ſent to St. Domingo, or St. Lucie, it is more than probable, that before

* See Mr. Windham's ſpeech reſpecting the application of remedies to old regulations, June 29th, 1797.

the

the ſecond clothing could be due almoſt every man of the corps would have periſhed, whilſt the other might remain in England without one private wanting to complete. It will not require much arithmetical knowledge to calculate the difference between the advantageous caſualties of the one and the eſtabliſhed profits of the other. So that, independent of much public profuſion, there is palpable cauſe of private jealouſy if we view the object, as I conceive it ought to be viewed, in an intereſted light.

But how ſhall we be able to reconcile to common ſenſe or common prudence the annual iſſue of the off-reckonings, beſides other advantages from accoutrements, &c. without an adequate appropriation of them? If the fee ſimple of public property is in the original contributors to public exigencies, if the legiſlative and executive authorities are only ſtewards to that property, and the heads of regiments mere tenants at will, the application of each diſburſement ought to be moſt ſcrupulouſly watched. Inſtead of being increaſed, or even kept upon its original level of extravagance, through the miſeries and devaſtations of war, every call upon that property

ſhould

ſhould diminiſh in proportion to their progreſs. It would then ceaſe to be a matter of intereſt in any man to keep a regiment incomplete, nor would it be in the power of the moſt malevolent to point the finger and exclaim—*There is a colonel whoſe wealth accumulates in proportion as his ſoldiers periſh!*

Yet this, my Lord, is an exclamation which not the malevolent only, but the ſincere well wiſhers to old England might uſe, under a full conviction of what has happened during the preſent war. I appeal to every field officer and captain in the ſervice to corroborate the juſtneſs of this remark; and I again appeal to them to ſay, whether they and the ſurviving remnant of an eſtabliſhment which, perhaps, was originally complete, have been benefited in one farthing by the enormous profits of their colonel? It is not with me to pronounce harſhly upon this extraordinary ſyſtem, or to trace it to its original principles of inſtitution; it is ſtill farther from me to enter into the injuſtice of this partial abſorption, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, of eſtabliſhed emoluments, which enriches one man only, while the moſt reſpectable part of the Britiſh corps, the field officers and captains, can with difficulty

ſupport

ſupport their rank. I know there have been inſtances, (but thoſe were rare, and now are rarer ſtill) of colonels of regiments affording a certain ſhare of their off-reckonings to the reſponſible officers in the regiment. This, however, was a voluntary act on their part, and conſequently has nothing to do with the ſyſtem; a ſyſtem, my Lord, which, if it were traced to its ſource, will be found to have originated in ſpeculative finance, without one ſolid ground of public œconomy to ſtand on; a ſyſtem which ſtill is, and always has been liable to abuſe; which was engendered by ſelf-intereſt, was countenanced by the pride or indolence of office, and has been ſhielded into full maturity by patronage and influence; a ſyſtem, in ſhort, againſt which common ſenſe has uniformly ſtood oppoſed, and which has only been driven from the divided channels of companies* into the gulph of regimental

* It muſt be in the memory of many old officers, that the off-reckonings, which are now the excluſive privilege of the colonel, lieutenant colonel, major or captain commandant, were formerly the joint perquiſites and emoluments of the ſeveral captains of companies. *Query*, has one halfpenny been ſaved to the public by the monopoly which has ſucceeded?

monopoly.

monopoly. Theſe are facts, I repeat again, which warrant a concluſion; which have uniformly had the moſt injurious theory for their baſis, and the moſt ruinous expedients for their ſupport; they warrant a concluſion which goes to the entire annihilation of off-reckonings, to the conſolidation of privileges, profits, and emoluments, and to a more equal maintenance or ſubſiſtence throughout the army. A neceſſity for correction would no longer preſent itſelf in the ſcandalous diſtribution of the half or ſmall mounting, accoutrements, &c. &c.; officers and ſoldiers would be equally intereſted in the care of public ſtores; the quality, make and quantity of clothing would be the ſame in each regiment, and not one principle of Rag-Fair or the Alley, would be found to tarniſh its reputation.

I may poſſibly be honoured with your Lordſhip's concurrence, when I ſubmit the propriety of allowing to colonels in the Line, a ſpecific annual income without arrears or deductions, to be paid upon the 24th day of every ſecond month. To render this conſolidation not only beneficial to the individual, but likewiſe productive of conſiderable ſaving to the public; the following eſtimate may

may perhaps be found calculated to anſwer thoſe two purpoſes. Taking the average value of the off-reckonings at the loweſt rate, between the full eſtabliſhment and the non-effective ſtate to which moſt regiments are very ſpeedily reduced in time of war, I will preſume, that, independent of pay, the nett emoluments of a battalion, reduced to ſixties, cannot amount, one year with another, to leſs than 500l. Add the ſubſiſtence for 365 days, ſay 328l. 10s. to this ſum, and it will appear, that every colonel receives from the public, annually 828l. 10s. excluſive of arrears; ſuppoſing his regiment to ſtand at the higheſt pitch of expenditure. In time of war, and under the ſcourge and ravage of diſeaſe, the profits (as I have already obſerved) though partial * and unequal between man and man, are generally enormous under the circumſtances of foreign ſervice. By an arrangement of this ſort, the miſeries of war would not cut, like a two-edged tool, into the ſinews

* I could prove from ſpecific ſtatements, that the nett profit of a colonel, whoſe regiment was ſent to the Weſt Indies within the laſt four years, has been upwards of 1700l. in one year, excluſive of his ſubſiſtence and claim of arrears.

of

of the country; the loſs of men would at leaſt diminiſh the conſumption of clothing, and the diſtribution of public property would be widened, or contracted, according to the *real* neceſſities of public ſervice.

No difficulty, for inſtance, could poſſibly occur in fixing a regular ſtandard of pay to the colonels and commandants of corps, which ſhould never be encumbered with arrears nor be liable to deductions. This regular life income (for I conceive it ought to be conſidered in that light, under ſpecific terms to guard againſt mal-practices) might eaſily be afforded at the rate of ſeven hundred and thirty pounds per annum or two pounds per diem, being an addition of two hundred and ninety-two pounds to the full pay four hundred and thirty-eight pounds, excluſive of the propoſed abolition of hoſpital money, agency and poundage, which ſhould be provided for in ſome other way. The ſaving to the public muſt be manifeſt from this calculation, and the certainty of a comfortable independence equally welcome to the individual. The ſubſiſtence of the other field officers, and of the captains of companies could be ſo regulated that every lieutenant colonel might enjoy, without

out arrears or deductions, a clear annual ſtipend of three hundred and ſixty-five pounds, or one pound per diem; every major three hundred and ten pounds five ſhillings, or ſeventeen ſhillings per diem, and every captain of a company two hundred pounds fifteen ſhillings or eleven ſhillings per diem. I purpoſely omit, in this calculation, the half yearly contingent allowance, which has already been recommended to be iſſued in a conſolidated ſtate with the money for pickers, bruſhes, worms, turnſcrews, brick-duſt, emery and oil, as the controul that every commanding officer of a regiment ought to have over that allowance, until the general inſpection ſhall have been ſatisfactorily made on the 24th of June and the 24th of December, in every year, would be ample ſecurity to government for the regular diſcharge of each captain's truſt. Independently of the ordinary routine of interior management, a general half yearly inſpection of this ſort muſt produce two very material objects of public and private conſideration; by the firſt, the public muſt be eſſentially benefited in the certain preſervation of its property, and by the ſecond, the individual himſelf would feel a

ſelf-

ſelf-intereſt in keeping a watchful eye over every ſoldier in his company. The increaſe that is propoſed in the conſolidation of the lieutenant colonel's and major's pay, is to enable them to keep a horſe, for which they have ſo many calls, and to which their ſubſiſtence at preſent is ſo notoriouſly inadequate. A ſimilar increaſe, apportioned to his rank, ought, in my humble opinion, to take place in favour of the adjutant.

I am perfectly aware of the ſtrong objections which might be adduced from the printed liſt of the army, particularly of the militia and fencible corps, againſt this laſt propoſition; but at the ſame time I am thoroughly ſenſible of the partial injuſtice, which many deſerving characters of that deſcription* are obliged to ſuffer, from the acknowledged want of a general rule to prevent the monopoly of ſituations.

It will naturally be expected, my Lord, that, having recommended ſuch a radical reform in the interior management of the Britiſh army, I ſhould point out a ſafe and rational mode for its accompliſhment.

* The adjutants.

The

The ingenious author of the treatiſe on Military Finance, has conſiderably relieved me from the neceſſity of going into much detail to obviate ſome objections that might poſſibly be urged againſt the propoſed conſolidation of the whole of the field officers and captains ſubſiſtence, by a remiſſion of their arrears and a total abolition of the hoſpital money, agency and poundage. He very ſenſibly remarks, "that to perſons accuſtomed to the courſe of office, the multiplicity of our preſent army computations is eaſy and familiar; but thoſe computations muſt certainly take up time; an object, conſidering the preſent ſtate of the army accounts, worth attending to. If, inſtead of theſe deductions, certain ſpecific, diſtinct ſums were eſtimated and ſet apart for thoſe ſervices in the eſtabliſhment; if diſtinct accounts were kept of the receipts and payments, under each head of ſervice; if the cloathing of the regulars were voted like the cloathing of the militia, ſeparate from the eſtabliſhment; if the ſum allotted to a regiment ſhould be the actual pay, and the whole of it be diſtributed among the

* See pages 125 and 126.

officers and private men, and paid to them without deduction, at ſuch times and in ſuch proportions, as might be deemed beſt for the ſervice; if every diſtinct ſervice had its diſtinct appropriation, which can be eaſily eſtimated by the experience of preceding years; it ſhould ſeem, this branch of the pay of the army might be carried on in a more ſimple, expeditious, and intelligible manner."

Preſuming, and not unreaſonably, (if there be any weight in the above extract) that the hoſpital money, the agency and the poundage might eaſily be provided for, by a ſeparate fund for thoſe purpoſes, I ſhall now direct your Lordſhip's attention to a ſpecific remedy for the avowed extravagance of army clothing. I have already called it the gulph of regimental monopoly, and I am ſtill perſuaded, that every ſubordinate evil which appears in the interior management of a regiment, flows out of that diſgraceful reſervoir of military traffic. With reſources enough to ſupport the moſt extravagant eſtabliſhments, and to ſupply the moſt urgent call of territorial neceſſity by unexampled exertions both by ſea and land, we ſeem fated, my Lord, to fritter them all away, or at leaſt to weaken their effect by

attending

attending more to the intereſts of individuals, than to thoſe of the great maſs of community. If the former have rights which ought to be reſpected, the latter have a claim equally imperious upon the government they ſupport. There is only one principle of juſtice between them; and it requires no ſmall ſhare of judgment and experience, to direct its influence through the appropriate channels of private ſervice and public contribution.

In order to give this principle a free operation, and to aſſimilate the intereſts of individuals with thoſe of the public, the internal functions of the military man muſt be kept as clear as poſſible from the intricacy of accounts. The colonels of regiments, were they poſſeſſed of a certain independence, would be the guardians of public property, the ſtewards of public iſſues, and in lieu of making money for themſelves, would naturally endeavour to check every attempt of the ſort in others. With this view, my Lord, a plan in my humble opinion might be recommended to the legiſlature, whereby a conſiderable ſaving muſt accrue to the public, excluſive of the very handſome allowance which has been propoſed for the field officers and captains.

With regard to the neceſſity for *ſome* plan, I apprehend there is no difference of opinion; and to the principle of the one which I ſhall do myſelf the honour to ſubmit, I have the vanity to hope there will not be much. At all events, I may poſſibly excite the better judgment and experience of others, to digeſt a ſafe and rational ſyſtem of military œconomy. The Hydra by which every other ſaving is devoured, and which retains its own extravagant conſumption in manifold ways, is allowed on all ſides to be the clothing warrant, with its train of groſs and nett off-reckonings. Theſe are the roots of that myſterious tree which branches out into a diverſity of emoluments, and produces that complicated ſtate of accounts, for the neceſſary arrangement of which the accuracy and diſpatch of a merchant's counting-houſe are wanted.* Deſtroy theſe, my Lord, and it will not be difficult to eſtabliſh in their room, a regular well formed clothing board, in which all public monies for that diſtinct ſervice, ſhall be punctually lodged by the pay-maſter ge-

* See Mr. Windham's late ſpeech on the increaſe of pay to the ſubalterns.

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RETURN of CLOTHING due to the Regiment of Foot *(as the caſe may be)*, Commanded by Colonel for the Year 179

Companies.		Serjeants.						Drummers.							Rank and File.							
		Great Coats.	Coats.	Waiſtcoats.	Breeches.	Hats.	Stocks.	Great Coats.	Coats.	Waiſtcoats.	Breeches.	Hats.	Stocks.	Drum Caſes.	Great Coats.	Coats.	Waiſtcoats.	Breeches.	Hats.	Stocks.	Corporals Epaulets.
Colonel's	—																				
Lieut. Colonel's	—																				
Major's	—																				
Grenadier's	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
	Total																				
Caſualties ſince the laſt Return		Made.	Reduced.	Diſcharged.	Deſerted.	Dead.	*Total*	Made.	Diſcharged.	Deſerted.	Dead.	*Total*			Joined.	Promoted.	Diſcharged.	Deſerted.	Dead.	*Total*		

A. B. Colonel or Commanding Officer.

C. D. Commiſſary of Muſters,
or Inſpecting Officer, *as the caſe may be.*

The Honourable the Commiſſioners of
His Majeſty's Clothing Board.

RECEIPT of CLOTHING delivered to the Regiment of Foot, Fencible or Militia *(as the case may be)*, commanded by Colonel on the day of in the Year 179

Companies.		Serjeants.						Drummers.							Rank and File.							
		Great Coats.	Coats.	Waiſtcoats.	Breeches.	Hats.	Stocks.	Great Coats.	Coats.	Waiſtcoats.	Breeches.	Hats.	Stocks.	Drum Caſes.	Great Coats.	Coats.	Waiſtcoats.	Breeches.	Hats.	Stocks.	Corporals Epaulets.
Colonel's	—																				
Lieut. Colonel's	—																				
Major's	—																				
Grenadiers	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
Captain	—																				
	Total																				

A. B. Colonel or Commanding Officer.

I do hereby certify that the above mentioned Men were ſupplied with the Clothing againſt their Names expreſſed for 179 , and that the Officers Servants and Bâtmen were provided with every neceſſary Article for Service.

C. D. Inſpecting Officer,
or Commiſſary of Muſters, *as the caſe may be.*

The Honourable the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Clothing Board.

neral on the 24th day of ſome given month of each year, according to the account which ſhall annually be tranſmitted to him for that purpoſe by the ſecretary at war; this account to conſiſt of the *effective* non-commiſſioned officers, drummers or fifers, and of the rank and file of the different marching regiments, fencible infantry and militia.

As a ſubſtitute for the clothing warrant, I would propoſe the annexed form of return, or ſomething ſimilar to it, which ſhould be annually tranſmitted to the board, ſigned and atteſted by the colonel of the regiment or by the commanding officer then preſent, and witneſſed by a commiſſary of muſters.* The receipt to be certified by a general inſpecting officer, or his deputy, whoſe particular province ſhould be confined to the interior management of each corps.

In offering theſe forms, my Lord, I do not preſume to expect, that they will be found ſufficiently accurate for unqualified adoption,

* If the additional character of inſpecting officer were to be given to this ſituation, with appropriate conſequence and independence, the ſervice would be conſiderably benefited, and the neceſſity of a new appointment would, of courſe, be ſuperſeded.

ſhould even the injurious ſyſtem of nett off-reckonings be aboliſhed. I am perfectly ſenſible, that a conſiderable amendment might be made by the addition of two columns, one for the ſecond pair of breeches, and the other for long gaiters. My chief view is to excite the legiſlature, through the concurring exertions of His Royal Highneſs the Duke of York, and I hope, my Lord, through yours, to reſcue the military character of Great Britain from the many glaring inſtances of private intereſt and corruption. The omiſſion which is made with reſpect to the ſmall or half mounting, and the conſolidation of the great coats with the other clothing, are founded upon the ſtricteſt principles of juſtice to the ſoldier, and œconomy to the public. I am further convinced, that by an honeſt appropriation of the groſs ſums (which are always iſſued for the full eſtabliſhment of each corps) to diſtinct and ſpecific ſervices and to the bonâ fide exiſting ſoldier in the ranks, ſufficient would be ſaved to afford the general increaſe of pay which has been ſuggeſted, to anſwer the contingent allowance for ſhirts, ſhoes, ſtockings and ſtocks, and to include a yearly allowance for one pair of gaiters, free of all ex-

pence

pence to the ſoldier, and, perhaps, a foraging cap.

I mention the two laſt articles, particularly the gaiters, becauſe I know, that there is not only a glaring want of uniformity in their make and quality, among militia regiments, but that the periods of delivery are as irregular as the prices are uncertain. In ſome regiments, for inſtance, the men are put under general ſtoppages for a ſecond pair of breeches and long gaiters, which are ſupplied by the quarter maſter; in others, the captains or officers commanding companies procure the ſame articles at the cheapeſt rate, and get reimburſed by the monthly arrears. Both inſtances, however, are ſubject to much irregularity from the uncertainty of their iſſue. If, on the contrary, ſome mode could be deviſed to have them delivered at a ſtated intermediate period of the year by an order from the clothing board, no complaints would ariſe on the ſcore of quality, nor any inconvenience occur from the neglect of regimental taylors. Officers would not be perpetually harraſſed by their men for articles which ought long ſince to have been ſupplied, and for which the

money is retained;* nor could the leaſt ſuſpicion attach of private advantage and emolument, on account of the different ways of delivery which are obſerved by different regiments. A conſolidation of theſe articles, in addition to that of the great coats, with the general clothing of the army, will perhaps appear too great an encroachment upon the ſaving which muſt be made by the entire abolition of every ſpecies of off-reckoning? Submitting myſelf upon this head to the ſuperior judgment of others, and ſenſible that the preſent pay of the ſoldier is fully adequate to the purpoſe, I will confine my obſervations to the œconomy which might be produced with regard to the appropriation of the ſtoppages in queſtion. I feel happy in having Mr. Cuthbertſon's authority to propoſe two ſubſtitutes for, or rather alterations in the ſecond pair of breeches and gaiters; and I hope, for the ſake of uniformity, regularity and good management, that ſome official notice will be taken of

* I have known, and lately too, upwards of thirteen months to have expired, and the ſoldier's money to have remained in his ſerjeant's hands during the whole of that period, without one of theſe indiſpenſable articles being iſſued.

the

the following ſuggeſtion, page 54, chapter XXII. "One pair of cloth breeches being inſufficient to ſerve a ſoldier for a year, he ſhould be furniſhed with another of white, ſoft ticking, of about two ſhillings and ſixpence value, to be made exactly after the form of his cloth ones; in the ſummer months, and on marches at all ſeaſons, the coolneſs of theſe breeches will be very convenient and pleaſing to the men, and, beſides the neatneſs of their appearance, are the cheapeſt that can be made from new materials." * The ſame author in another place (page 61) very judiciouſly recommends a ſubſtitute equally cheap and convenient, for the ſecond pair of long black cloth gaiters. His words are—" as long gaiters confine and heat the ſoldiers legs too much, upon a march, in warm weather, it will be prudent, to furniſh them with black ſhort ones, to riſe only to the level of the calf, with a ſmall peak at the top of the back ſeam, and made in every other particular, like the long gaiters:

* I take this opportunity of recommending to the peruſal of every officer, the whole of Mr. Cuthbertſon's work as publiſhed by Mr, Egerton at Charing Croſs.

and

and as they are conſiderably cheaper, it muſt be œconomy to wear them on all occaſions, when the others can be diſpenſed with; beſides, a commanding officer will very much conſult the good appearance of his regiment by it, as ſoldiers never look ſo tight or well prepared for any ſervice, as when dreſſed in gaiters of this kind, eſpecially if uniformity has been eſtabliſhed, in the colour of their ſtockings.

In addition to this ſuggeſtion, I beg to obſerve, that the ſhort gaiters ought to be made of grey ſtout linen, which, when well waxed and blackened, will not only look neat, but likewiſe keep off rain and mud. I have known them furniſhed at 1s. 4d. per pair.

Hence it appears, my Lord, that the ſoldier could very eaſily be ſupplied with a ſecond pair of breeches, and one pair of ſhort gaiters during the ſummer months for 4s. 10d.; whereas he now pays 10s. 6d. for articles, which are calculated for the ſame uſe, but are manifeſtly productive of much inconvenience. If the white ticking ſhould be diſapproved of, or ſhould it be thought too great an encroachment upon public œconomy, to iſſue the ſecond pair of breeches and gaiters free of

expence

expence to the ſoldier, I ſhould conceive that a very excellent ſubſtitute might be adopted for the former by making them of ſheep ſkin in lieu of cloth. The durability of this article would amply compenſate to the non-commiſſioned officer and ſoldier for the trifling addition which would be required to the 6s. 6d. that are already fixed by government. The militia man muſt derive peculiar advantage from the change, ſince a pair of leather breeches would be ſerviceable at all times and on all occaſions. I ſhould imagine, that the commanding officers of corps or captains of companies, might eaſily get ſupplied with theſe articles at the rate of nine ſhillings per pair. Theſe, without very extraordinary wear and tear indeed, would laſt three years at leaſt, which muſt make a ſaving to the ſoldier of 10s. 6d. in that period; and ſhould the militia be diſembodied, the article would ſuit every ſort of trade and occupation to which he might return. Another material advantage would accrue to the ſervice at large, by the introduction of that uniformity of appearance in different regiments, the want of which is ſo notoriouſly viſible in every camp and upon every garriſon parade in Great Britain.

I know,

I know, my Lord, that this laſt propoſition will not prove acceptable to many militia colonels; eſpecially to thoſe whoſe partial ideas of neatneſs are apt to ſuperſede the ſolid dictates of general utility: but, I know at the ſame time, that it is not poſſible for any one of them to diſpute its propriety, either in point of ſyſtem, with regard to public appearance, or in point of health, with regard to private uſe. Every ſurgeon who is, or has been attached to a militia regiment, in which the practice of wearing pipe clayed trowſers was prevalent, will agree with me in attributing more diſorders than one to their adoption; and every officer will equally concur in lamenting the broken look which is given to a brigade or garriſon line, when ſuch a regiment is drawn up and formed with others. Independent of theſe reaſons, there is a ground of poſſible inconvenience which even militia colonels ought warily to conſider. They ſhould recollect, that by deviating from the king's rules, they become hourly expoſed to an infraction of their own. Whatever latitude may be allowed them in other reſpects, and under the particular circumſtances of a monthly meeting, it is their

duty

duty, and indeed their intereſt when in actual ſervice, to adhere moſt religiouſly to that ſyſtem which has public authority for its baſis. The many abuſes and conſequent grievances, which, to my knowledge have ariſen from an inattention to this ſalutary principle, ought to have been productive of that general reform in the militia eſtabliſhent which is acknowledged to be loudly called for on all ſides, and is equally neglected by all perſons. The object, my Lord, is now before the three component parts of the conſtitution; its beauties and its advantages are ſenſibly ſeen by King, Lords and Commons, and its defects are as publicly confeſſed. In the courſe of a few weeks, perhaps this object may diſappear, and with it all the viſible means of giving greater efficiency in future to its eſtabliſhment. As flattery does not conſtitute a part of my character, or if it did, would have little weight with the preſent gentlemen in office, conveyed through the channel of theſe ſheets, I ſhall not heſitate to pay Mr. Windham the tribute he deſerves for having ſo actively correſponded with his Royal Highneſs the Duke of York's ſuggeſtions, and indeed with the general ſenſe of the country, in

ſome

ſome of his late regulations. But I hope I ſhall be pardoned by thoſe who have it in their power to remove the maſs, when I ſtill preſume to direct their moſt ſerious attention to the enormous and unfruitful burthen which is annually thrown upon the public, by the continuance of *privileges*, *profits*, or *emoluments** to colonels, &c. of regiments.

As long as the nett off reckonings, with an incalculable train of contingent items, are left untouched and uncorrected, ſo long will militia regiments be kept incomplete; and the defence of the country inſtead of being (what it ought to be among the upper ranks at leaſt) a rallying point, where property ſhould ſacrifice a part to preſerve the whole; inſtead of being the mother's ſtandard for her children to reſort to, the internal vigour of the land, and the ſolid rampart of our iſland; will be the mimic ſhadow of them all, without the life and energy they promiſe. The partial ſaving which may be made by a reduction of the Line will ultimately be devoured, both there and every where elſe, while this ſyſtem is ſuffered to exiſt. The head of the ſerpent

* See the Pay-Bill, 33d of the King.

muſt

muſt be bruiſed, my Lord, and its power of action be deſtroyed, before you can remain ſecure from the influence of its venom, or be ſhielded againſt its ſubtlety and cunning.

As it will probably be ſaid, that the emoluments, which are known to grow out of the nett off-reckonings and to accumulate in the *non-effective* ſtate of regiments, cannot be calculated to any material extent in militia corps, I ſhall take the liberty to ſubmit three different eſtimates of clothing, for three diſtinct periods, to your Lordſhip's conſideration. Theſe will prove, beyond the poſſibility of contradiction, that the dilapidation of public property is univerſal, and proportionably great or ſmall according to the exertions of the different gentlemen who may be entruſted with the component parts of this eſtabliſhment. It has already been obſerved, that in ſome inſtances, particularly in one, the whole off-reckonings, contingent allowances, &c. are ſacrificed by the colonel of a certain militia corps, to the comfort and good appearance of his men. Although it is impoſſible to find fault with the liberality of the individual, nevertheleſs, much practical inconvenience may reſult from this partial appropriation of public money.

money. Soldiers, my Lord---and few men know and love the character better than yourſelf---are in the conſtant habit of comparing; in camp, garriſon, or town, they naturally aſſociate together, comment upon the conduct of their ſuperiors, and make common cauſe under every circumſtance of unequal diſtribution. In contraſting the generoſity of one colonel with the more confined views of another, they do not diſtinguiſh between the right which *both* enjoy, according to the preſent ſyſtem, of being profuſe or parſimonious. The only thing to be lamented is, that in both caſes, the principles of true national œconomy are almoſt always ſacrificed to private conſiderations. In order to ſteer between theſe two extremes, and at the ſame time to ſhew the pernicious tendency of nett off-reckonings in general, I ſhall briefly ſtate, from undoubted vouchers, a ſuccinct account of what has been received and expended on that head during three ſucceeding years. I have deſignedly fixed upon one particular corps of militia, becauſe I know that, however wide the ground may have been for private emolument, leſs advantage was taken of the public purſe, than might be expected from

the

the ſize of its eſtabliſhment. And yet, ſmall as that advantage may appear, comparatively viewed with the profits of ſome regiments, there is nevertheleſs ſufficient, my Lord, to eſtabliſh two eſſential points which call for immediate reformation. Theſe are, *money iſſued for clothes which never are made up*; and *ſpecific ſums allowed without an adequate appropriation of their amount to ſpecific ſervices.*

ESTIMATE of CLOTHING for a REGIMENT of MILITIA,

For the Year 1793.

		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1	Serjeant Major	—	—	—	—	5	12	5½
1	Drum Major	—	—	—	—	9	12	5¾
4	Grenadier Serjeants	3	7	6½	each,	13	10	2
4	Light Infantry Serjeants	3	5	10½	—	13	3	6
4	Muficians do.	5	17	6¾	—	23	10	3
24	Battalion do.	3	7	2½	—	80	13	0
4	Muficians, Corporals	5	15	11¼	—	23	3	9
75	Grenadiers, Privates	2	3	2½	—	162	0	7½
75	Light Infantry do.	2	11	0¾	—	191	9	8¼
552	Battalion do.	2	2	10¾	—	1183	18	6
20	Drummers	—	2	13	0	—	53	0	0
						1759	14	5
To balance		—		—		412	13	11
				Total		2172	8	4

By Government Allowance for Clothing

		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
36	Serjeants	5	14	7	each,	206	5	0
20	Drummers	3	0	5	—	60	8	4
756	Rank and File	2	10	5	—	1905	15	0
						2172	8	4

ESTIMATE of CLOTHING for a REGIMENT of MILITIA,

For the Year 1794.

		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1	Serjeant Major	—		—		5	11	4
1	Drum Major	—	—		—	9	11	4½
4	Grenadier Serjeants	3	6	5	each,	13	5	8
4	Light Infantry do.	3	4	11½	—	12	19	10
24	Battalion do.	— 3	6	1	—	79	6	0
4	Muficians do.	5	16	5¼	—	23	5	9
4	Muficians, Corporals	5	14	9¾	—	22	19	3
75	Grenadiers, Privates	2	2	11	—	160	18	9
75	Light Infantry do.	2	10	7¾	—	189	18	5¼
555	Battalion do.	2	2	7¼	—	1182	5	3¾
20	Drummers	— 2	12	0	—	52	0	0
						1752	1	8½
	To balance	—	—			420	6	7½
				Total		2172	8	4

By Government Allowance for Clothing

		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
36	Serjeants	5	14	7	each,	206	5	0
20	Drummers	3	0	5	—	60	8	4
756	Rank and File	2	10	5	—	1905	15	0
						2172	8	4

ESTIMATE of CLOTHING for a REGIMENT of MILITIA,

For the Year 1795.

		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1	Serjeant Major	—		—		5	10	7½
1	Drum Major	—		—	—	9	10	7¾
4	Grenadier Serjeants	3	5	8½	each,	13	2	10
4	Light Infantry do.	3	4	10¾	—	12	19	7
26	Battalion do.	3	5	4½	—	84	19	9
4	Muficians do.	5	15	9	—	23	3	0
4	do. Corporals	5	14	1½	--	22	16	6
75	Grenadiers, Privates	2	2	5¾	—	159	5	11¼
75	Light Infantry do.	2	10	2	—	188	2	6
558	Battalion do.	2	2	1¾	—	1175	17	4½
20	Drummers do.	2	12	0	—	52	0	0
						1747	8	9
To balance		—		—		436	8	9
				Total		2183	17	6

By Government Allowance for Clothing

		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
38	Serjeants	5	14	7	each,	217	14	2
20	Drummers	3	0	5	—	60	8	4
756	Rank and File	2	10	5	—	1905	15	0
						2183	17	6

ACCOUNT of EXPENDITURE for WATCH COATS for the Years 1793, 1794, 1795.

	£.	s.	d.
Expended in 1793 — — —	16	16	10
1794 . — — —	0	6	0
1795 — — —	38	5	3
	55	8	1
To balance — — —	76	13	11
Total	132	2	0

CONTINGENCY

By Government Allowance for Watch Coats for Sentries during the following Periods, at the Proportion of 6d. per Man, half-yearly, and granted for the full eſtabliſhment of non-commiſſioned officers and privates, ſay 814:

	£.	s.	d.
For the year 1793 —	40	14	0
1794 —	40	14	0
1795 —	40	14	0
	132	2	0

[101]

N. B. The fringe for the flank companies and ſkirt ornaments for ſerjeants, which may amount to 4d. each, are not included in the above eſtimate. But this expenditure is amply made up by a multiplicity of contingent items.

In the bare article of ſervants and bat-men only, a conſiderable profit accrues annually. We will ſuppoſe, for inſtance, that in a battalion of the above ſtrength there are forty; (for each of whom 2l. 10s. 5d. is allowed by government) the average emolument, during five years, will be at the rate of 1l. 9s. 5d. for every ſervant and bat-man per annum, with the deduction of 2l. 2s. 10¾d. for one ſuit of clothing to each from the groſs ſum in that period: to which may likewiſe be added a ſmall compenſation for the half-mounting. I ſubmit this ſtatement from the known practice of more regiments than one. So that allowing even 10 ſhillings for ſhirts, ſhoes, ſtockings and ſtock, the nett profit, after the firſt year, will be 19s. 5d. per man, or thereabouts.

This eſtimate, my Lord, is given upon the higheſt calculation of diſburſement, and is drawn from the documents of a militia regiment whoſe colonel might have been benefited to a much more conſiderable degree, had he imitated the common practice of many other corps. The exemplification of the different evils, which are aſſerted in the foregoing ſheets to proceed from the ſyſtem of nett off-reckonings, muſt conſequently be the more impreſſive, becauſe it exhibits thoſe evils in a fainter light than they really ſtand, collectively conſidered. That there are partial exceptions to much general abuſe, I will readily allow; but at the ſame time I will moſt confidently aſſert, that thoſe exceptions are rare indeed, and that, even under thoſe very exceptions, there is a receipt of public property without an adequate diſburſement for the uſe of public ſervice.

Without therefore taking a retroſpective view of this deplorable ſyſtem, or entering into a minute detail of its evils to prove the latitude of their exiſtence, I ſhall reſt ſatisfied with having ſtated what, I humbly conceive, might obviate a multiplicity of abuſes. But to do this effectually, the hand of correction

rection inſtead of being employed at the bottom of regimental œconomy, ſhould be impartially directed againſt the fountain head of miſmanagement. It is high time, to bid adieu to impotent and illuſive reforms in the army, to be cavilling about pitiful and exiguous ſavings, and as Mr. Windham once emphatically obſerved, to fix the attention of the legiſlature upon the parings of cheeſe or ſcraps of bread; it is high time to give ſubſtance to official phraſeology; to enlarge the objects of enquiry, and by ſhutting up the different avenues through which patronage and connection introduce pride and imbecility, to give a ſcope to merit.

Quicquid ſine detrimento poſſit commodari, id tribuatur cuique vel ignoto!

It remains with the commander in chief to continue in that laudable path of diſtributive juſtice, by which he has ſo deſervedly got poſſeſſion of the eſteem and affection of every military man; it remains with him, my Lord, to digeſt, in common with others, a compendious ſyſtem of reform in the Line; to propoſe an entire annihilation of veteran cuſtoms that are no longer uſeful or beneficial, and to replace them by ſalutary regulations; it remains

remains with him to circumſcribe public functionaries, to clear the wide ſurface of national contribution from the devouring weeds of private accommodation, and to make the flimſy trappings of parade ſubſervient to the ſolid texture of utility. You will then have officers, my Lord, who know and love their occupation, who value their ſoldiers, and are beloved and valued in return. They will be the executive channels of well digeſted theory, the certain inſtruments of legiſlative wiſdom, and the co-operating means of confident authority. It will no longer be within the reach of wealth or intereſt to fix a pair of colours in the nurſery, or for the effrontery of intrigue to promiſe a commiſſion under the actual caſualty of birth.* The mother's womb will not contain this embryo of corruption, nor will the cradle hold the unfledged enſign for whoſe ſake the friendleſs officer has been robbed of his promotion. It remains with him, in a word,

* I have heard it aſſerted, and I believe the fact, that at the beginning of the preſent war an enſigncy was promiſed to a lady in pregnancy, ſhould ſhe be delivered of a male. Riſum teneatis amici.

to

to co-operate with every intelligent character for the wiſe purpoſe of abſorbing into ſome regular and reſponſible channel, all the diſcretionary and, if I may be allowed the term, all the legiſlative powers of colonels of corps—I would make them, as obſerved above, mere *executive* points of general exertion, and render the ſituation of every officer ſo perfectly ſhielded from the very ſuſpicion of embezzlement, that government alone ſhould manage the diſtribution of national property, and the different component parts of regiments obey and ſecond its directions. I would, in addition to the total abolition of off-reckonings, and the conſolidation of allowances to captains of companies, narrow in the many divided and ſubdivided points of reſponſibility, and give an appropriate character to different ſituations according to the different complexion of their duties. In following Mr. Mackintoſh through a very correct and logical definition of what delegated rights are, I ſhall not be apprehenſive of imputed incorrectneſs, when I aſſert of the army what he has ſo very clearly eſtabliſhed with reſpect to the late prieſthood of France.* The caſe

* See page 89 Vindiciæ Gallicæ.

is

is preciſely ſimilar and in regard to the ſyſtem of off-reckonings unequivocally juſt. Corporations, to uſe his own words, are voluntary aſſociations of men for their *own benefit.* Every member of them is an abſolute ſharer in their property, it is therefore alienated and inherited. Corporate property is here as ſacred as individual, becauſe in the ultimate analyſis it is the ſame. But the prieſthood is a corporation, endowed by the country and deſtined for the benefit of *other men.* It is hence that the members have no *ſeparate*, nor the body any *collective* right of property. They are only entruſted with the *adminiſtration* of the lands from which their *ſalaries* are paid.*

Admitting the *legal ſemblance* of property

* The application of this paſſage to the ſubject matter at iſſue will not, I preſume, be found much out of the way, eſpecially with regard to the propoſed reſumption of public property out of the hands of adminiſtrators that are confeſſedly profuſe. From what principle the ſyſtem of off-reckonings firſt grew I know not; if it aroſe from a motive of compenſation it will admit of the following familiar illuſtration.—"Though a land holder may chuſe to pay his ſteward for the collection of his rents, by permitting him to poſſeſs a farm *gratis*, yet he is not conceived to have reſigned his *property* in the farm."

which

which colonels of regiments moſt unqueſtionably poſſeſs, under more circumſtances than one, particularly in the Line, (where a valuable conſideration may have been originally given for progreſſive rank) I am willing to acknowledge in Mr. Burke's words, as quoted by Mr. Mackintoſh, *that they are in ſome degree identified with the maſs of private property.* But at the ſame time I am equally diſpoſed to aſſert with the latter, that this language is only *correct while we limit our view to forms.*

Cuſtom and courteſy have given a currency to abuſes, which could not aſſuredly have been foreſeen, although they ought to have been apprehended, by the original inſtitutors of this melancholy ſyſtem. Merit ſhould be rewarded by a fixed ſtandard of recompence and honour; but to allow indiſcriminate profits without a diſtinction of characteriſtic value, and to entail, under formalities which are repugnant to common juſtice, an *exceſſive* diſburſement of public property for an *exiguous* proportion of individual ſervice, is to entangle natural impreſcriptible right in all the ſubtleties of legal fiction.

Various as the aſpects of this opinion are, which will naturally offer themſelves to different

ent underſtandings, eſpecially of thoſe perſons who muſt be intereſted in the continuance of the preſent order of military things, not one, I truſt, will be found to controvert the right of reſumption by that *public will* which creates, ſupports and unalienably commands the whole.

A country, my Lord, like Great Britain, that owes its very exiſtence, as a great and independent nation, to the exertions of induſtrious merit, ought to expunge from its public records the ſhameful cuſtom of purchaſing employments. The ſale of commiſſions ſhould not only be checked whilſt there is ſuch a tremendous maſs of unemployed, and I am ſorry to add, in part, of uninſtructed officers upon the full and half pay liſt, but an immediate plan ſhould be deviſed, by means of a certain compenſation, to get every commiſſion, of which the holder was either unwilling or unable to perform the duties, into the hands of government.

I know that many will not reliſh the mode of reaſoning here adopted. I likewiſe know, that ſome of the moſt diſintereſted admirers of the conſtitution, will be ſtaggered at the propoſal, becauſe they will be apprehenſive

of

of danger from this apparent increaſe of patronage to the crown. Others again will calculate the expence of a new board, or of an extenſion of the duties of the war department and a conſequent increaſe of ſalaries; *which if done*, to uſe Mr. Windham's words in a late debate, *many would be ready to cenſure, or buſineſs would paſs without proper attention being paid to it.*

It would keep me conſiderably out of the approaching concluſion to this letter, were I to attempt entering into the minutiæ of detail and calculation to prove, that the public expenditure ſo far from being increaſed, muſt be diminiſhed by this reſumption of public right. The ingenious and learned author, whom I have juſt quoted, ſpares me the trouble of relieving the real friends to conſtitutional freedom from any alarm which they might indulge on the ſcore of undue influence. He wiſely remarks (and his obſervation is perfectly appoſite to the preſent armed ſtate of the country) "that a domeſtic army cannot be increaſed without increaſing the number of its ties with the people, and of the channels by which popular ſentiment may enter it. Every man that is added to the army is a new

link

link that unites it to the nation. If all citizens were compelled to become ſoldiers, all ſoldiers muſt of neceſſity adopt the feelings of citizens. A ſmall army may have ſentiments different from the great body of the people, and no intereſt in common with them; but a numerous ſoldiery cannot. This is the barrier which nature has oppoſed to the increaſe of armies. They cannot be numerous enough to enſlave the people, without becoming the people itſelf."

With this view, my Lord (to follow Mr. Adams in his late addreſs to Congreſs) and as a meaſure which, even in time of *univerſal peace*, ought not to be neglected, I would recommend a complete reviſion of the laws for organizing, arming, and diſciplining of the militia, to render that natural and ſafe defence of the country efficacious. I have already propoſed the equalization of regiments by the incorporation of ſmall corps, and the reduction of large ones to a certain ſtandard. This propoſition is conſiderably aſſiſted by the raiſing of the ſupplemental militia. From that nurſery a regular reimplacement of the deſerted, the dead, and the diſcharged, muſt perpetually be offered, and the many inconveniences

inconveniences that might otherwiſe ariſe, with reſpect to clothing, &c. would naturally vaniſh under the influence of ſo great a certainty of men. The general ſcale of population is ſufficiently known, and the comparative reſources of the different towns and counties ſufficiently eſtabliſhed, to give conſiſtency to the many contradictory acts, and amendments to acts that, like thorns and brambles, infeſt the preſent ſyſtem. I do not ſcruple to ſay, that until the multiplied channels of partial accomodation, the various rills of county intereſt, and the miſerable views of perſonal connection, ſhall be broken and diſſolved into a wide and general maſs of public utility, the ſervice will never obtain that ſolid complexion which ought to belong to a great national eſtabliſhment. If, on the contrary, the wealth and ſtation of private individuals are to ſuperſede public conſiderations, let the diſtinctions they poſſeſs be honorary feathers only, to inſpirit and adorn the aggregate, but let not the page of military ſtipends be almoſt doubled with the addition of the names of ennobled leaders, to the preſervation of whoſe rank and property ſo many millions are contributing. I

ſhall

ſhall wave all diſcuſſion on the groſſneſs of nett off-reckonings and the contradiction which muſt ſtare every diſcerning perſon in the face, when he reads of *privileges*, *profits* and *emoluments* in the independent militia of Great Britain. Every argument that has been offered in the foregoing pages againſt the exiſtence of this ruinous ſyſtem, muſt operate with ten-fold efficacy againſt its prevalence in this particular eſtabliſhment. The conſolidation of pay into a certain annual income for the three field officers of the line, muſt therefore be conſidered as applicable to them only. I would in a financial view, reduce the officers of that rank in the militia, to the ſame ſtandard under which they act in time of peace.*

With reſpect to ſome material rules and regulations which are indiſpenſibly wanted to give energy to ſo much natural ſtrength, I can only obſerve that, after the abolition of the nett off-reckonings or rather the reſumption of its right by government to clothe the whole army, and the annihilation of every

* In time of peace, militia colonels and field officers receive pay as captains of companies only.

ſpecies

ſpecies of diſcretionary reſponſibility in the colonels of militia regiments, after theſe, my Lord, an inſurmountable barrier to the *poſſibility* of holding two commiſſions, and a ſpecific ſeparation between civil and military duties, ſeem to me to be moſt eſſentially requiſite. To this end, I would propoſe, with proper deference to the ſuperior judgment of His Royal Highneſs Field Marſhal the Duke of York and in ſubmiſſion to your opinion, a total excluſion of every acting commiſſioned officer from the ſituation of regimental paymaſter. Confident as I am, that the original intention of government was to diſable the clerk or regimental pay maſter of every battalion, whether unembodied or otherwiſe, from holding any commiſſion higher than that of a captain lieutenant,* I would ſtrip the appointment

* And be it further enacted, that no adjutant, ſurgeon, regimental or battalion clerk, or quarter maſter in the militia, ſhall be capable of being appointed *captain of a company*; and that no perſon holding the commiſſion of captain of a company ſhall be capable of being appointed adjutant, ſurgeon, regimental or battalion clerk, or quarter maſter: provided nevertheleſs, that any battalion clerk may be appointed a captain lieutenant in any regiment or battalion of militia entitled by the proviſions of this act to

pointment of regimental pay maſter* of all its gaudy colours, reduce it to the calm correctneſs of civil occupation, and inſtead of keeping the character as a mere bird of plumage that feeds upon the induſtry of others, I would make it the ſteady medium of public diſtribution. The ſalary which is annexed to the ſituation, together with ſome myſterious perquiſites, ſhould remain at its preſent ſtandard of 120l. per annum, without thoſe perquiſites; and in order to concentrate as much as poſſible every public allowance, I would ſuggeſt a conſolidation of the ſeveral ſums which are annually granted as contingencies according to the ſtrength of different corps—viz. for poſtage, ſtationary, guard rooms and ſtore rooms taken together; for allowances to companies on a march having regimental ſtores neceſſarily with them, ditto to detachments under the ſame circumſtances, provided the companies to which they belong are not in motion at the ſame time; ditto for

have a captain lieutenant. 26th G. III. Cap. CVII. S. LXII.

* The ſame reaſons which will hereafter be ſtated why the adjutant ſhould not be made captain lieutenant, apply more forcibly to the regimental pay-maſter.

fire

fire and candles for guards; for carriage of ammunition; for hoſpital expences; to which may be added the actual expence of package and carriage of arms from the packer's to head quarters, while properly vouched. The conveyance of regimental clothing from magazines, which might be eſtabliſhed in the different diſtricts of Great Britain, and equally ſo in Ireland, would neceſſarily form a part of theſe contingencies. Theſe taken regimentally might be divided under three heads of interior diſtribution, and the reſponſibility of the whole be veſted in the pay maſter. Vouchers on theſe heads ſhould be regularly ſigned and certified for by the commanding officer preſent, on the 24th day of June and the 24th day of December in every year, and counterſigned by the adjutant. I ſhould likewiſe propoſe to have iſſued, through the ſame channel of diſtribution, a certain annual allowance which might be afforded for altering the new clothing to fit, according to the *bonâ fide* ſtrength of effective non-commiſſioned officers, drummers and privates. This propoſition naturally cancels the preſent ſtoppage of 2s. 6d. for the ſame purpoſe; in lieu of which, I will ſubmit to the better

judgment of others to determine, whether a ſtoppage of 1s. 6d. per man at the beginning of winter, would not be amply ſufficient to mend the old clothing, particularly the coat and waiſtcoat, ſo as to make them laſt until the delivery of the new? If, on the contrary, it ſhould be judged expedient to turn them into jackets, I am clearly of opinion, that a certain compenſation ought to be given to every non commiſſioned officer and ſoldier, for the probable uſe which would neceſſarily be made of their property to preſerve that of the public. This preſumption is grounded upon the knowledge of ſome exiſting circumſtances which warrant not only the concluſions already drawn in the foregoing pages, but likewiſe forcibly point out the miſchievous latitude that colonels and commanding officers poſſeſs under the preſent regulation.*

* Viz. 2s. 6d. which are ſtopped from the ſoldier for altering clothing to fit. I have known an inſtance, during the preſent war, in which 1s. was ſtopped to pay for the mending of the old clothing. This ſtoppage, however, took place a conſiderable time after the new ſuits ought to have been delivered. There are other inſtances, which I could ſpecify, where the clothing has been kept back in ſo extraordinary a manner that three ſuits, including the jacket, have belonged to the ſoldier at one period.

You need not be told, my Lord, that the ſervice muſt be injured by the very appearance of miſapplication and abuſe. Mankind are naturally ſuſpicious, and ſoldiers readily miſtruſt when they do not perfectly feel, that the utmoſt fraction of every ſtoppage they ſuſtain is applied and bonâ fide laid out.

The inſtitution of a general clothing board would however, prevent the miſapplication of this ſtoppage, and put it out of the power of the ſoldier to queſtion the integrity of his officer or pay ſerjeant.* I am further of opinion, that the fewer the ſtoppages are, eſpecially thoſe of a general nature, the leſs intricate will the regimental accounts be found, and every poſſible cauſe of murmur conſequently ceaſe.

Abundant, in every reſpect, as the preſent pay and ſubſiſtence of the Britiſh ſoldier moſt unqueſtionably are, I cannot, with any degree

* It is a circumſtance familiar to ſome perſons, (and the correction of the abuſe does credit to the individual who regularly traced it) that the pay ſerjeants of a certain militia regiment once made a practice of clearing 4d. out of every half crown ſtopped from the ſoldier, by paying 2s. 2d. to the regimental taylors—ſo that theſe gentlemen had likewiſe their nett off-reckonings!

of juſtice to the public, propoſe that the whole of the expence of fitting the new clothing, &c. ſhould be charged againſt it. At the ſame time a ſpecific rule ought to be made, to prevent the many contradictory ways in which the preſent ſtoppage is applied. We ſhould not then behold three different regiments, acting under the ſame government, and ſuppoſed to be directed by the ſame principles, drawn up on the ſame line of parade in three different modes of dreſs; nor ſhould we ſee a militia corps, at this late period of the war, clothed and accoutred in direct oppoſition to eſtabliſhed rules. * In order, therefore, to make the expence bear as lightly as poſſible upon both parties, I would propoſe a commutation of the ſoldier's inherent property in the clothing, and that he ſhould only be ſubject to a certain drawback, ſay one ſhilling and ſix-pence, to repair the old ſome time before the delivery of the new. Government might in this caſe, and under the circumſtances already ſtated of accumulated ſavings, eaſily afford a fixed price to be paid by the regimental pay maſter through the quarter

* Vide a certain regiment in the Eaſtern diſtrict, not one hundred miles from Ipſwich.

maſter

maſter to a certain proportion of taylors, ſay two per company, who ſhould be employed, during a limited period, in altering the new clothing to fit, and at another given period, in mending the old. A regulation might likewiſe be made reſpecting the cocking of regimental hats,* with ſpecific directions relative to the binding, looping, &c. I do not know any regiment, regular or otherwiſe, which deſerves more to be diſtinguiſhed from the reſt, as a pattern corps on this head, than the Weſt Suffolk. I will not even diminiſh its merit by the manifeſt ſimilarity which the folding inwards of the back part of the hat, bears to the late Swiſs guards in the ſervice of France.

All theſe advantages, with a variety of others, muſt be the natural conſequences of the opening of a fountain head, from whence the ſubordinate channels of interior diſtribution would derive their courſe. The moſt important among the latter, or rather the

* A rule of this ſort muſt effectually put an end to the exerciſe of whim in giving taſſels, &c. or the more pernicious practice of making one iſſue of helmets, to an infantry corps, laſt four or five years, in lieu of a yearly delivery of hats.

principal of the three heads* under which the ſeparate œconomy of every regiment could be divided, is the pay-maſterſhip. This ſhould be the point into which the numerous particles of reſponſibility ought to be concentrated; and to which the War Office, Pay Office, Ordnance and Clothing boards ſhould look, through the watchful ſuperintendency of the commanding officers of corps, for a juſt and honeſt diſtribution of public property. Beyond the glare and out of the dazzle of military pomp, the pay-maſter, my Lord, ought, at all times and on all occaſions, to be enabled to devote the whole of his attention to official buſineſs. He ought, in a word, not to be (what he is familiarly known to be by every officer who will give himſelf the trouble of looking over the army and militia liſts of the laſt five years, or of attending to exiſting facts) he ought not to be a ſecondary gulph of regimental monopoly. He ought not in one corps to be *adjutant*, *pay maſter*, *quarter-maſter* and *captain lieutenant*; in another *captain* of a company with one or two of

* Pay-maſterſhip, ſurgeoncy and quarter-maſterſhip.

theſe

theſe appointments and perhaps with additional *brevet rank*; in another *captain* of a *flank* company, *pay maſter* and *agent*; nor under the ſame principles of reaſoning ought the quarter maſter of a regiment to be the eldeſt ſubaltern of grenadiers, or light infantry.

Having, in the aggregate of this monopoly of appointments, mentioned the adjutant, I ſhall not heſitate to ſay, that his peculiar ſituation, eſpecially in militia corps, deſerves the moſt attentive inveſtigation. The ſtrange ſyſtem of purchaſing, and conſequently of ſelling a commiſſion, which ſhould be an ultimate object of emulative ambition among the ſubalterns and non-commiſſioned officers, has been productive of innumerable evils. Without entering into thoſe of a financial nature, I will ſubmit the following ſection from the 26th of the king, and leave the application to thoſe whom it may concern.

" And be it further enacted, that His Majeſty may and ſhall appoint one proper perſon who ſhall have ſerved, or ſhall at the time of ſuch appointment actually ſerve in ſome of His Majeſty's other forces or in any body of militia that has been drawn out and embodied,

embodied, to be an adjutant to each regiment, battalion, or independent company of militia, in every county, riding or place, and ſuch adjutant, if appointed out of His Majeſty's other forces, ſhall, during his ſervice in the militia, preſerve his rank in the army in the ſame manner as if he had continued in that ſervice; and the lieutenant of any county, riding, or place, may give any ſuch adjutant a commiſſion of a lieutenant or enſign; although ſuch adjutant may not have the qualification required by this act for a lieutenant or enſign: and it ſhall be lawful for the lieutenant of any county, riding or place, on the recommendation of the commanding officer of any regiment or battalion of militia, raiſed within ſuch county, riding or place, conſiſting of *not leſs* than ſix companies, to appoint the adjutant of ſuch regiment or battalion, to the rank of captain, by brevet, provided ſuch adjutant has ſerved five years in the rank of lieutenant, whether in the militia or in His Majeſty's other forces, although ſuch adjutant may not have the qualification required by this act for captain, &c.

Among other injurious treſpaſſes againſt the ſpecific meaning of this ſection, it will not appear trifling or irrelevant to remark, that there is no mention made of the *rank of captain*

tain lieutenant; and if indeed there had been, or if there ſhould be in any act of a later date, I muſt ſtill feel diſpoſed to diſpute the propriety of ſuch a clauſe upon the following grounds. The captain lieutenant is the immediate efficient officer of the colonel's company, he has the ſole and undiſputed right of its interior œconomy, receives and pays for the repair of arms, &c. and although he does not rank above militia captains of companies, nor ever can on that date by any ſubſequent promotion, yet he does duty with them and is ſubject to the ſame roſter. If therefore the rank of captain lieutenant, in lieu of captain by brevet, as provided for by the act, be given to the adjutant, three evils muſt follow of courſe; namely, the colonel's company never can have above an enſign, (and I have known that one to be ſcarcely an adult) an additional ſhare of duty muſt fall upon the reſt of the captains, and no poſſible point of emulation can remain beyond the rank of eldeſt lieutenant for the other ſubalterns.

To return to the ſituation of regimental pay-maſter, I will briefly obſerve, that the ſame precautions which I know have been taken by ſome receivers general of the land tax,

tax, in ſecurity of the truſt that has been committed to individuals acting as battalion clerks, ſhould be rigidly attended to here. The preſent allowance might eaſily be increaſed from the great ſaving which muſt grow out of the reduction of the *military* commiſſion, which is ſo unaccountably attached to a department that is avowedly *civil* in all its duties. The mere buſineſs of parade—ſhould that be deemed an object of conſideration—might readily be anſwered by brevet rank, to ceaſe or to operate according to the particular ſituations of the different corps.

Some arrangement of this ſort could without difficulty be made from the precedent which is already given in marching regiments, with reſpect to ſurgeons. But no effectual arrangement, I am perſuaded, can or will take place, either on this or any other head, until the different opinions of individuals become objects of national enquiry. It is not from a partial meeting at the St. Alban's Tavern,* nor from a dinner at the

* Much leſs ſo from the private ſuggeſtions of intereſted individuals, who have party-views or family advantages to anſwer!

Thatch'd

Thatch'd Houſe, my Lord, that a radical reform in the militia of Great Britain is to be expected; nor is it from any particular conference at the Horſe Guards—much as I reſpect the noble perſonage who now directs the operation of that military board—that a permanent well digeſted ſyſtem is to come. It is from a calm inveſtigation of remarks, founded upon facts, and from a complete reviſion of every act and regulation by which the ſervice can be affected, that national advantages muſt flow; it is, in a word, from the diſcuſſions of that part of the legiſlature, which alone can ſupply the means of carrying on defenſive or offenſive meaſures, that the unavoidable burthen of a military eſtabliſhment muſt derive conſiſtency and value. When ſuch a ſyſtem, ſo widely beneficial and at the ſame time ſo univerſally wanted! ſhall be attended to in parliament, then may we hope to ſee the energy of appropriation equal to the boaſted plenitude of reſources. Upon the broad baſis of unexampled contributions from the public, an indefatigable co-operation of private induſtry will riſe; we ſhall not then be reduced to the neceſſity of holding out illuſive comforts for the acquiſition of

ſubalterns

ſubalterns in the militia,* nor be driven to the neceſſity of expelling four or five deſerving characters from the ſervice, becauſe a proviſion,

* It is ſomewhat remarkable that the compenſation money or annual allowance, which was voted in 1795, for ſuch ſubalterns as would ſerve during the war, and continue to attend at the different monthly meetings in time of peace, ſhould prove almoſt nugatory from the want of a more liberal and extended principle of operation in the act. Inſtead of limiting that operation to any particular month, *under the exiſting circumſtances of the times*, it would have been more political had a certain ſum been appropriated for the uſe of any given number of ſubalterns, who ſhould have ſerved five or ſix months before the concluſion of hoſtilities. For ſtrange as it may appear, it is not the leſs correct to ſay, that when this country ſtood moſt in need of its militia, there was then the greateſt ſcarcity of officers. The allowance which had been voted by parliament to remedy this evil could not have any effect, becauſe the period had expired within which it was confined. It may poſſibly be ſaid in reply to theſe remarks, that the allowance in queſtion was ſuggeſted by the exigency of the moment, and that the ſooner the operation of the act could ceaſe, the leſs burthenſome would be the charge againſt the public? Allowed: but did not that exigency wear a more ſerious aſpect when the principles, upon which the allowance was granted, ceaſed to operate, and were not the objects for which it was at all thought neceſſary, manifeſtly wanted during the exiſtence of external and internal danger? By a wiſe extenſion of the period on the contrary, many would have entered into different militia

ſion, originally given for preſumed inability, was at laſt diſcovered to be incompatible with any receipt of pay for actual employment. Nor ſhall we, my Lord, behold a joint pay-maſter general, who is himſelf a militia officer, actively employed in forcing from the temporary tenure of a ſubaltern commiſſion, men acquainted with their duty and equal to the exerciſe of it?

Although your Lordſhip is already in full poſſeſſion of many particular circumſtances which attended the failure of Col. Baſtard's motion in favour of a few adjutants (who though ſuppoſed incapable of ſerving, and therefore handſomely provided for during the remainder of their lives, were ſtill competent to much perſonal exertion at that critical juncture.) Notwithſtanding your in-

litia corps, who then ſtood excluded, and by the regular appropriation of an annual ſum, to grow out of the land-tax, for a ſpecified number of ſubalterns who ſhould ſerve under conditional reſtrictions, a ſtandard of invitation would have been erected for the regular ſupply of that eſtabliſhment.

I hope I ſhall ſtand excuſed for the length of this note? I feel ſo fully the propriety of ſome amendment being made, that I am willing to incur the imputation of too much minuteneſs, rather than be miſunderſtood.

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formation upon this head, I cannot withhold from the public the impreſſion which ſo exiguous a ſaving of limited ſubſiſtence neceſſarily made: particularly ſo, as the event took place when every hand, every heart was wanted in a general cauſe. In ſo vague a manner indeed was the act itſelf originally interpreted, that an individual, with whoſe ſituation I am perfectly acquainted, did not heſitate to ſacrifice his own doubts to the judgment of another, and continued in an exemplary tract of duty until he was directed to retire from the ſituation, on the failure of the ſpecified motion. How great muſt the aſtoniſhment of every impartial perſon be, when he learns that, notwithſtanding the above officer's immediate acquieſcence to all the conditions of the act, as amended and interpreted afreſh, there is at this moment a demand made againſt him to refund a conſiderable ſum, being the amount of the compenſation which he received as retired adjutant, under the former conſtruction of the act*. How

* The very looſe manner in which this act originally paſſed, and the more looſe attention that was ſubſequently paid to its operation by commanding officers and muſter-maſters,

How much more noble and more closely in point would the pay-master-general's call of the attention of the committee have proved, had he directed his opposition to the continuance of five or six deserving characters, during the most critical juncture of the country, to the superior ranks of militia corps? Had he aimed at unnecessary profusion in the partial nomination of officers to double commissions who scarcely fulfil the common duties of one; had he pointed out the lamentable state of many regiments on that establishment in point of *effective* men, the notorious abuse of the services of others in withdrawing them from military duty for menial and domestic purposes; the connivance at supernumerary servants and bât-men,

masters, may be truly be said to have caused this unfortunate mistake. The conditions might have been made in so distinct a way, that neither the service nor the individual could have been injured. The latter would at least have had the option of quitting or continuing to serve, without being exposed to the inconvenience of the case adduced. As it is now interpreted, he will be under the necessity of refunding the compensation money, which is more considerable than the subsistence, because he was persuaded to continue in the service under the strongest assurances of propriety.

and the ill judged retention of infirm and unfit objects; had he propoſed a rational check to improper diſcharges, and endeavoured to correct deſertions, by confiding the former to the inſpection of diſintereſted officers, and preventing the increaſe of the latter, by a regulation which ſhould force every deſerter from the militia into ſome regiment on foreign ſervice; had he taken a ſide glance at the multitude of aide-de-camps who are amply paid in two capacities, while their own regiments are perhaps actually ſuffering from the want of their attendance in quarters, or on ſervice; had he above all things conſidered the accumulation of public burthens by the parliament aſſenting to augmentation companies, without having firſt eſtabliſhed *whether the original number was complete*; had he expoſed to the Commons the unreaſonable appointment of additional field officers, &c. whilſt the common complement of the old battalion, even with reſpect to officers, was manifeſtly wanting; had he expoſed the abſurdity of ſuch a propoſition by comparing the augmentation to the giving an artificial member to a man when the natural one only ſtood in need of animation; had he directed

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the view of the legiſlature to the liſt of our envoys and plenipotentiaries out of Great Britain, and particularized any individual who could be proved to have received the profits and emoluments of a militia regiment, whilſt he remained abroad, in a diplomatic character: had theſe objects, and they are far from being of inconſiderable import in more lights than one, conſtituted a previous queſtion, we might then, my Lord, in Mr. Steele's own reſignation of the majority of the Suſſex regiment of militia* whilſt he ſhould con-

* The bare ſituation of this regiment proves more the impolicy of double commiſſions and appointments, than all the powers of language could accompliſh. A reference to the laſt printed Liſt will therefore be the beſt comment upon this obſervation. It will then reſt with his Royal Highneſs Field Marſhal the Duke of York and the Secretary at War, to ſatisfy the guardians of public property on the juſtice of continuing the following contradictory appointments: viz. His Grace the Duke of Richmond, colonel of the Suſſex militia, and perfectly maſter of all its *profits*, *privileges* and *emoluments*, but incapacitated to act *becauſe* he is field marſhal; the Right Hon. Thomas Pelham, lieutenant colonel of the ſame regiment, equally unable to ſerve, *becauſe* he is the Iriſh ſecretary and ſeldom or ever in England, excepting upon cabinet meſſages! the Rt. Hon. Tho. Steele, ſole major to the ſame, equally uſeleſs in that character, *becauſe* he is joint pay-maſter general.

tinue to act as joint pay-maſter general to the forces, have afforded him credit, for the oppoſition given to retired adjutants.

That I may not appear to be partially invidious, or to be influenced by generalities, in my remarks upon additional field officers, I ſubmit the following ſtatement of an authentic fact.

Through ſome unaccountable neglect of the deputy lieutenants in a northern part of the iſland, a regiment of militia has remained conſiderably ſhort of its complement or quota ever ſince the commencement of the preſent war. I believe I ſhall be found correct in aſſerting, that the number (not of *effectives*, but of men upon returns) ſcarcely ever came up to the full eſtabliſhment by fifty at the loweſt computation; and when the act for augmenting the militia took place on the 28th day of March, 1794, the deficiency ſtood at ſixty and upwards. What muſt the ſurprize of every reaſonable perſon be, when he is informed, that in the face of this deficiency a meeting was convened for the purpoſe of raiſing two additional companies, and that they were accordingly raiſed by voluntary ſubſcriptions. That the meeting could not have been

been acquainted with the *non effective* ſtate of the original battalion when the augmentation was propoſed, may be readily believed; nor am I diſpoſed to throw any particular blame upon the movers of it, as I would willingly believe they did not thoroughly foreſee the inevitable burthen which muſt neceſſarily fall upon the country in more reſpects than one. But the Right Hon. Gentleman, my Lord, who has ſo ſtrenuouſly ſtepped forward to prevent five or ſix deſerving and uſeful men from continuing to ſerve, through an exiguous principle of œconomy, ought to have diſcovered, and conſequently reſiſted, the unreaſonable acceſſion of temporary levies to a battalion which *then* wanted nearly one, and *now* wants almoſt two companies to complete its original eſtabliſhment. He ought to have known, through the medium of official intercourſe, that more benefit would accrue to the country at large by a *completion** of the

* The Northumberland Militia is an inſtance in point---two hundred men were raiſed as additional levies, but in lieu of the country being burthened with an expenſive eſtabliſhment of ſecond field officers, &c. the old battalion was filled up, and the remaining ſurplus gave an additional company. The ſame œconomical ſyſtem has been adopted, I believe, in one or two other corps,

regiment, than by temporary acceſſaries with additional officers; he ought to have ſubmitted to the Houſe the manifeſt contradiction which muſt ſtrike every diſcerning perſon who ſhould compare the ſituation of the battalion in queſtion with that of others; he ought to have ſtated, that the regiment, to which he was himſelf attached, conſiſted of more effective men, was larger in its original quota, and although it had ſeldom the advantage of being attended by any one of its field officers, was nevertheleſs conſidered as being equally fit for ſervice with the one alluded to. He might indeed have travelled out of his own county corps, and have directed the attention of the committee to the Somerſetſhire regiment, whoſe eſtabliſhment is not only more conſiderable than either of the two mentioned battalions, but, I believe, more effectively complete: in ſo doing he would have proved, that notwithſtanding the frequent indiſpoſition of two field officers, the ſervice was meritoriouſly attended to by the remaining one, without the beneſit of a co-adjutor. It would be ſuperfluous to illuſtrate my reaſoning by any other inſtances of this ſort, I ſhall therefore diſmiſs the ſubject with a very plain

plain and unequivocal queſtion. Would it not have been more juſt and more œconomical to have completed the old battalion, with men fit for duty, and to have encouraged deſerving officers in the exerciſe of their ſeveral functions, than to have added to public expenditure, for the ſole purpoſe, perhaps, of creating *one* or two additional field officers?* I wave all further comment upon this ſingular mode of giving energy to the ſervice, and ſhall reſerve ſome matter in point for an opportunity which may be more immediately calculated to prove the dangerous conſequences of ſo impolitic a ſyſtem. The evil, thank God, is at preſent within a very nar-

* Much uſe has been made of the name of a certain great perſonage, at the head of the army, to ſupport this extraordinary ſyſtem. I know how uſual it is to pervert the principles of one regulation to maintain the crooked policy of another; I ſhall not therefore heſitate to aſſert, that although his Royal Highneſs, Field Marſhal the Duke of York, may recommend ſecond field officers in the Line, in order to employ many deſerving characters from the Half-Pay Liſt, the ſame ground of reaſoning cannot hold good with regard to the militia, eſpeciallyin a financial light. If members of parliament, like theatrical performers, *muſt* have their *doubles*, let them ſo far differ from them, at leaſt in public principle, as not to ſerve from private intereſt.

row compaſs, and can readily be corrected: but the precedent may be fatal.*

I ſhall now take my leave of a ſubject, in the diſcuſſion of which I have inſenſibly been led to touch lightly upon more diverſity of matter, than I originally intended. To uſe

* The following is a correct extract from the laſt printed liſt---of the different regiments to which additional field officers have been appointed.

Royal Cornwall Militia	One ſecond Major.
Eaſt Devonſhire Ditto	One ſecond Major.
North Devonſhire Ditto	One ſecond Major.
South Devonſhire Ditto	One ſecond Major.
Warwickſhire Ditto	One ſecond Major.
Wiltſhire Ditto	One Lieutenant Colonel
North Yorkſhire Ditto	One ſecond Major.

Names of regiments which are ſtronger than the aforeſaid corps and which have not any additional officers.

The Royal Lancaſhire Militia.
Somerſetſhire Ditto.
Royal Surrey Ditto.
Suſſex Ditto.
Northumberland Ditto.

In referring to the printed Liſt, I cannot forbear to direct the attention of the judicious and diſcerning reader to the Weſtmoreland and Cumberland Militia. They will exhibit the moſt glaring picture of perſonal influence, without an appropriate diſtribution of rank, that can perhaps be found in military hiſtory. A particular circumſtance, which occurred laſt war with regard to the clothing, ought to point out the neceſſity of reform in this.

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your Lordſhip's own emphatic expreſſion, the *firſt of all œconomy is the ſuppreſſion of abuſes*, and to adopt the natural dictate of ſo ſound a maxim, the beſt and only way to ſucceed in its deſirable purſuit, is to compare the identification of evils with the means of rational reformation; to ſhew where theory is illuſive and contradictory when proved by the ſolid rule of practical experience; and to convince a wiſe and an enlightened people, that procraſtination is as dangerous in politics as it can be in morality, that no public inſtitutions can long be beneficial while there are avenues left open for the mere private views of family dependents; and that no government will be long efficient, while its executive powers, in the moſt ſubordinate degree, are perplexed and weakened by too great a mixture of legiſlative buſineſs; to prove, in a word, how the great chain of human ſociety is to be preſerved by a regular concatenation of perſonal exertions; by a wiſe diſtinction of duties, and an appropriate character to the oppoſite ſyſtems of civil and military occupations. We ſhall then, my Lord, ſee Britiſh officers, ſuperior as they are in the reſources of the country to foreigners of the

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ſame profeſſion, rival and perhaps out-do them in military virtue and experience; a ſpirit of emulation will ſucceed to the extinctinction of ſinecure appointments; perſonal ſervice will have its defined and ſeparate circle of individual merit; while one wide conflux of aſſimilated particles, moved and actuated by one *impartial* influence, will conſtitute the native ſtrength and ſpirit of Old England.

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APPENDIX.

ALTHOUGH it will probably fall to my lot—unleſs I ſhould be anticipated in the ſubject by the ſuperior abilities of ſome other writer—to throw the maſs of minutes and obſervations, which are by me, into a regular ſyſtem of military œconomy, I ſhall nevertheleſs run the hazard of being thought too diffuſe by ſubmitting the following remarks upon the late partial remiſſion of arrears in the army.

Availing myſelf therefore of the privileges which are attached to epiſtolary communications, I ſhould aſk the Hon. Secretary at War, why the original intention of giving every thing in future, in the ſhape of ſubſiſtence, inſtead of any thing being withholden under the head of arrears, has been abandoned? If no delay in the payment of them can at all be imputable to office, if government

ment ſtand excuſed in the moſt unqualified manner; if it was altogether the delay of the regiments themſelves, and it aroſe out of the ſituation of the regiments, who while abroad on foreign ſervice, could not make up their accounts with the accuracy and diſpatch of a merchant's counting houſe; if this were really the caſe, that caſe could only exiſt in a partial manner; even with regard to the line—and it cannot ſtand good at all with reſpect to militia corps—the latter, it is well known, are ſo circumſcribed in their limits of ſervice, ſo entirely relieved from the many caſualties to which marching regiments are expoſed, that not one plauſible reaſon can be given for a retention of any part of the officer's pay on the head of ſecurity to the public. The ſolitary ground of the recruiting ſervice, which is maintained in marching regiments, and *there* only with reſpect to captains of companies, cannot poſſibly hold good in the militia, as that part of the ſervice is managed by the deputy lieutenants of counties, &c. The only plauſible pretext which could be given, muſt be founded in the truſt that devolves upon the ſeveral captains of companies at two different epochs; the one is at the commence-

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ment of a war, and the other during the continuance of it; at which two periods certain ſums muſt be paid by the receiver general of the land tax of each county, riding, or place, under the heads of marching guineas for the firſt enrolment, and ditto for prolongation of ſervice after five years, &c. The War Office department has likewiſe iſſued, during the preſent conteſt, two guineas per man in the ſhape of bounty with the above money.* The diſcre-

* I ſhall be pardoned for an obſervation on this head. When the additional douceur, together with the marching or county guinea, became due, and formed an enormous maſs of public diſburſement, the greateſt ſcarcity of caſh prevailed. Without entering into the nature of that ſcarcity, I will briefly aſk, whether the public and the ſoldier might not both have been conſiderably benefited by a little foreſight in the principles of this diſtribution. A regulation for inſtance, might have taken place in the act for prolongation of ſervice, by which every militia man, who ſhould have faithfully ſerved during the war, would be entitled to a certain ſum to take him back to his county, riding or place. This ſmall compenſation would have enabled the induſtrious to reſume their former occupations for the ſupport of themſelves or families, and the leſs attentive might have been kept in awe through the dread of loſing it from miſconduct; nor do I believe that the future views of the Line could have been materially hurt by a ſyſtem of the ſort. This, however, is a ſecondary conſideration at beſt.

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tionary controul which the captains of companies moſt unqueſtionably have over the marching guinea only, may render it matter of prudence with government, to reſerve a part of the full pay, in the ſhape of arrears, to anſwer any poſſible defalcation on that head. This argument however can readily be anſwered by obſerving, that as every captain, or other commanding officer of a company, muſt from time to time account to his men for every part of the marching guinea, and diſpoſe of it in the moſt advantageous manner for the reſpective militia men, it is hardly probable that he ſhould be found a defaulter after the lapſe of one year in either epoch. Why therefore any drawback ſhould be made upon the eſtabliſhed pay of militia captains I know not. The conſolidation of the ſoldier's allowances and the *neceſſity* which every commanding officer of a company is under, of ſettling all pecuniary concerns between the privates and himſelf on the 25*th* day of each month, preclude the poſſibility of defalcation in every other reſpect. With regard to regimental accounts, no difficulty can ariſe on that ſcore, as the colonels are reſponſible for their pay maſters, and

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ſtated periods are regularly pointed out in which the latter muſt tranſmit them through ſpecified channels. I make theſe obſervations as relevant to the preſent exiſting regulations, and I have the preſumption to believe, that by an adoption of ſomething ſimilar to what has been propoſed in the foregoing ſheets, the ſyſtem of receipt and diſburſement would be perfectly eaſy and correct.

THE END.

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